

New Polling: A Suffolk University/*USA Today* poll released Monday found strong support for additional gun restrictions, including 63% of respondents who want semi-automatic weapons banned.

Another 76% said that people treated for mental illness should be banned from owning firearms and 61% said stronger gun control law and background checks could prevent more mass shootings.

The poll also found that 62% believe schools should be required to have metal detectors and 58% believe there should be a requirement that schools have a armed police officer stationed on campus.

However, just 19% believe the prospects of Congress passing gun-control measures are good to excellent and 25% believe there is a fair chance for legislative action. Another 51% said the chances are poor.

"Voters see a Congress that is deaf to their wishes about remedying gun violence in the United States," said David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center in Boston

The nationwide survey of 1,000 individuals, which has a margin of error of 3%, also found that President Donald Trump's approval rating stands at 38%, down from 47% one year ago.

"President Trump's job performance ratings have had several ups and downs in the past year, with last March's relatively strong showing coming in the aftermath of a well-received speech to Congress," Mr. Paleologos said. "The bump he got after signing the tax bill in December appears to have been overwhelmed in light of young people challenging him on gun issues and the investigation of Russian meddling in U.S elections."

ODP Training: The Ohio Democratic Party announced Monday that more than 110 candidates took part in its "Main Street Initiative," which provides training and support to candidates.

"What Democrats are seeing nationally, we're seeing here in Ohio, too - the unprecedented energy and enthusiasm of the grassroots is turning into record numbers of Democratic candidates running in races up and down the ballot," ODP Chairman David Pepper said in a statement. "We're proud to support our state and local candidates when they run for office, as we build our bench of great public servants. We look forward to working with our 2018 'Main Street' candidates from now through Election Day and then touting their successes once they're in office."

Governor's Appointments

State Auctioneers Commission: Theresa M. Blocher of Paris for a term beginning February 26, 2018, and ending October 9, 2020.

Board of Nursing: Lauralee S. Krabill of Sandusky and Patricia A. Sharpnack of Chardon for terms beginning February 26, 2018, and ending December 31, 2021

Supplemental Event Planner

Monday, March 5

One Ohio Now news conference on state data ahead of the State of the State Address, Ladies Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, March 7

Rep. Martin J. Sweeney (D-Cleveland) fundraiser, Dempsey's, 346 S. High St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Marty, We Love You; \$1,000-\$5,000; Best Buddy; \$500; Good Pal; \$100 Friend: \$25 to Friends of Martin J. Sweeney)

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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From: NCSL TODAY

Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 11:17 AM

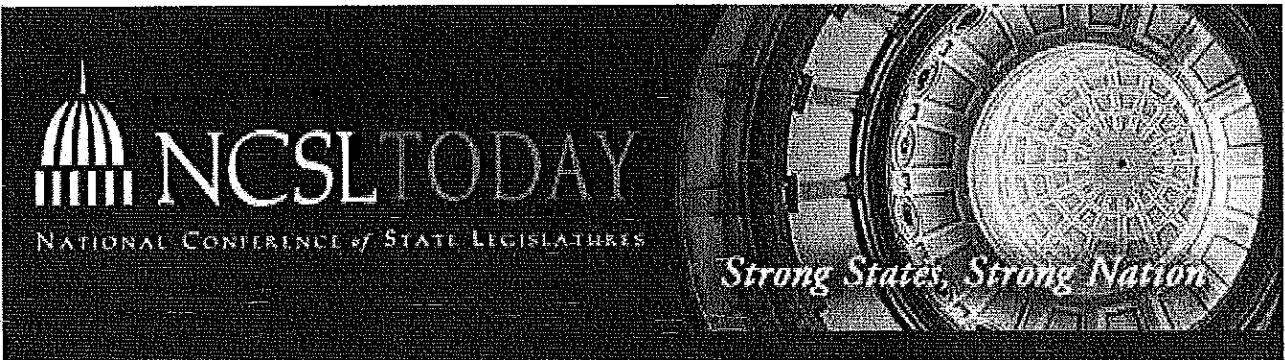
To: Snider, Grace

Subject: What states are doing about gun laws in wake of Florida shooting

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TOP NEWS Feb. 27, 2018

What states are doing about gun laws in wake of Florida shooting

The New York Times

It is not just in Florida, where the mass shooting at a high school is prompting lawmakers to take up gun control legislation. The same thing is happening across the country, from Washington to Vermont.

[NCSL Blog post on carrying firearms in K-12 schools.](#)

Supreme Court to hear online tax case April 17

Bloomberg

The U.S. Supreme Court will soon hear a long-simmering challenge about states' taxing authority over online retailers. And states should have the high court's answer by the start of summer. **NCSL brief cited.**

[NCSL resources on remote sales tax collection.](#)

What the Supreme Court's ruling means for DACA and 'Dreamers'

USA TODAY

By refusing to hear a California case, the high court ensured that DACA will survive at least through the fall, giving DACA enrollees a temporary reprieve from deportation and Congress more time to craft a permanent solution for them.

[NCSL resources on DACA.](#)

Iowa lawmakers move to allow health plans that skirt Obamacare rules

The Des Moines Register



Net neutrality legislation in the states

Net neutrality legislation has been introduced in over half of the states, largely in response to the Federal Communications Commission Restoring Internet Freedom Order.

2018 legislative races by state and chamber

The Iowa Farm Bureau Federation could offer health insurance plans that don't comply with the federal Affordable Care Act under legislation advancing in the Iowa Legislature.

New Jersey lawmakers: Let inmates vote from prison

NJ.com

State lawmakers on Monday announced legislation that would return voting rights to nearly 100,000 people locked up in prison or serving parole or probation.

[NCSL resources on felon voting rights.](#)

Feds provide Connecticut schools money for new students from Puerto Rico

CT Mirror

Connecticut schools scrambled to accommodate the new arrivals — most of them non-English speakers — without additional resources from a cash-strapped state government.

Webinar March 9: Fiscal 50 - How does your state rank?

Price of democracy: Splitting the bill for elections



Gorsuch silent during SCOTUS union dues oral argument

If there ever was a case where the vote of only one Justice is likely to matter it is *Janus v. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees*. All attention was focused on Justice Neal Gorsuch this morning as the Supreme Court held oral argument in this case. And he was...silent.



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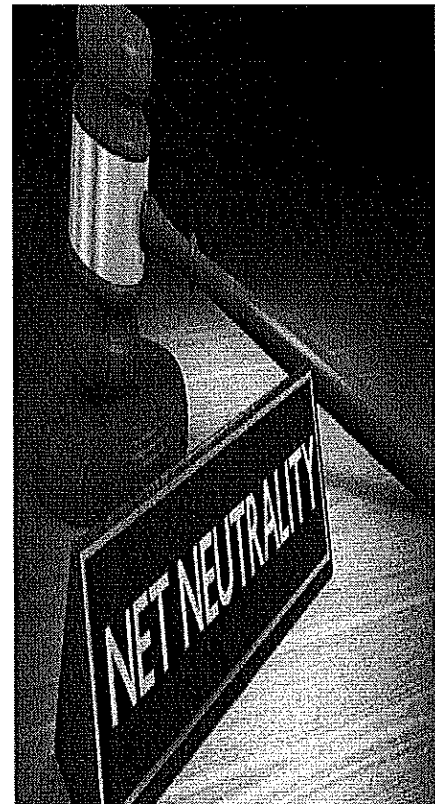
USA TODAY

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FEATURED

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NEW @ NCSL

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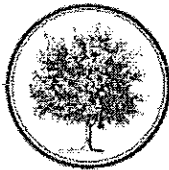
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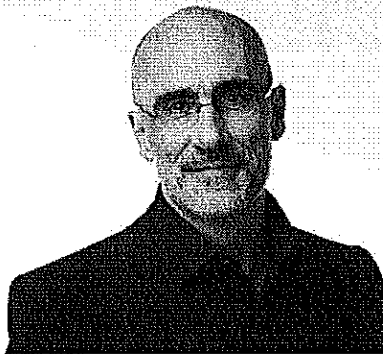
From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 2:47 PM
To: Snider, Grace
Subject: AEI President Arthur Brooks to address The Buckeye Institute luncheon March 21

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE



You are cordially invited to join us for an extraordinary luncheon talk featuring American Enterprise Institute (AEI) President Arthur Brooks on Wednesday, March 21, at noon.

This is a very special event and great opportunity that you don't want to miss, so register soon as it will likely sell out. (Further details available by following registration link.)

We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Your friends at The Buckeye Institute

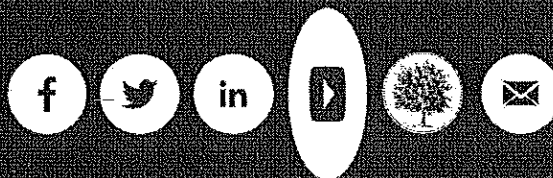
Register to Attend

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Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

= A

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Paretti, Dominic
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 5:05 PM
To: House_All
Subject: FW: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

****REMINDER-DEADLINE TO CO SPONSOR IS MARCH 9, 2018 at 4PM**

Dominic Paretti
Legislative Aide to Representative Boyd
Ohio House District 09
614-644-5079

From: Paretti, Dominic
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 5:01 PM
To: House_All <House_All@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave



MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Janine Boyd and Representative Kristin Boggs
DATE: February 5, 2018
RE: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

We will soon introduce legislation to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Today we chose to send this co-sponsor request as this date marks the 25th anniversary of FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). This legislation will provide 12 weeks of family and medical leave benefits, which will permit individuals to care for a family member, bond with a new child, or address their own serious health condition.

Out of 178 countries worldwide, the United States is one of three that does not provide paid leave to new mothers. So far five states—California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island offer some sort of paid leave to men and women who provide care. The federal Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons. This time is unpaid and employers with fewer than 50 employees are exempt, which eliminates a large segment of workers. Ohio should lead on the issue of paid leave to grow our economy and allow working people to put family first.


The program will be under the purview of the Department of Job and Family Services. An individual would receive leave insurance benefits for: a health condition which makes him/her unable to perform their job duties; caring for a new child during after birth, adoption, or foster care placement; caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition; or the individual is taking any other leave as authorized by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. In order to be eligible for program benefits, an individual must file a claim with ODJFS; must have worked at least 680 hours during the base period; premiums have been withheld and remitted for at least one year; and the leave must be for the above-mentioned purposes.

Once established, program benefits will be paid by assessing premiums on employees. Employers will be required to deduct and withhold premiums from employee's wages. However, an employer may opt to pay the contributions on behalf of employees.

An employee who is covered by an employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that provides the employee with greater leave than that provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act may elect not to participate in the Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director. An employee who elects to opt out of participating in the Program is not liable for any premium or contribution that would otherwise be due under the Program.

Working people in Ohio should not have to worry about losing their job or falling behind financially just to take care of a sick child or relative; address their own serious health condition; or care for and bond with their newborn child. Ohio cities like Dayton and Cincinnati are leading on leave. By allowing working people to put their family first, we can truly make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Dominic Paretti, at 614-644-5079 or via email at Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov and Serena Finlay, 614-466-1896 or via email at Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Friday, March 9 at 4:00pm.**



Janine Boyd
State Representative, Ohio House District 09

Kristin Boggs

Kristin Boggs
State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: Fedor, Teresa
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 9:34 PM
To: Paretti, Dominic
CC: House_All
Subject: Re: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

Yes

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 27, 2018, at 5:05 PM, Paretti, Dominic <Dominic.Paretti@ohiohouse.gov> wrote:

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MARCH 9, 2018 at 4PM**

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Legislative Aide to Representative Boyd
Ohio House District 09
614-644-5079

From: Paretti, Dominic
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To: House_All <House_All@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

**<image001.png>
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<image002.jpg>

Janine Boyd

State Representative, Ohio House District 09

<image003.png>

Kristin Boggs

State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Friday, March 2, 2018 8:50 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 3/2/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS

3/2/2018



BILL WOULD REQUIRE DRIVERS TO MOVE OVER FOR GARBAGE TRUCKS

The Ohio House will consider legislation giving garbage trucks "move-over" protections in place for emergency vehicles.

NEXT PHASE OPENS IN OHIO'S \$8M OPIOID TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE

Ohio launched the second stage of its global technology challenge Wednesday aimed at finding solutions to the U.S. opioid crisis.

MORE THAN 131,000 ISSUED CONCEALED CARRY LICENSES IN OHIO

Ohio's attorney general says more than 131,000 residents were issued licenses last year to carry concealed weapons.

OHIO BILL WOULD ALLOW PROTECTIVE ORDERS FOR DATING VIOLENCE

A bipartisan bill allowing victims of dating violence to seek protective orders against alleged perpetrators is on its way to Ohio Republican Gov. John Kasich.

KASICH PROPOSES 'RED FLAG' LAW, OTHER GUN CHANGES IN STATE

Gov. John Kasich on Thursday advocated a "red flag" law for Ohio, a ban on armor-piercing ammunition and other gun policy positions he says represent political consensus in a bellwether state that could fly nationally.

2 DEMOCRATS FOR OHIO OFFICES WANT OPEN REDISTRICTING PROCESS

Two Democrats seeking statewide office in Ohio are pitching a plan they say would guarantee Ohio's redistricting process for congressional districts is more transparent to the public.



FOR SCHIAVONI RUNNING MATE, DRUG CRISIS IS ALL IN THE FAMILY

Ohio's opioid epidemic is so extensive that it's struck the families of at least two of those seeking statewide office.

KASICH UNVEILS 'UNANIMOUS' PROPOSALS TO CURB GUN VIOLENCE

Saying he has to deal with the art of what's possible — what can pass the Republican-dominated General Assembly, Gov. John Kasich proposed six gun-law reforms on Thursday that he believes he can help Ohio avert some gun deaths.

CRITICS SLAM MEDICAID WORK PROPOSAL

Advocates, health-care providers and others slammed a state plan on Thursday that would require most non-disabled adults on Medicaid to work or lose their tax-funded health care.

LAWMAKERS OFFER COUNTIES \$114.5 MILLION FOR VOTING MACHINES

Counties would get nearly \$115 million in state money to replace aging voting machines in time for the 2019 election under a bill expected to pass the legislature this spring.

REP. BOGGS NEEDS HELP TO QUALIFY FOR PRIMARY BALLOT

State Rep. Kristin Boggs, D-Columbus, will need help from Republican Secretary of State Jon Husted in order to qualify to run as a write-in candidate for the May primary.

MAYOR GINTHER ENDORSES CORDRAY FOR GOVERNOR

Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther on Thursday endorsed Richard Cordray, former Ohio attorney general and former director of the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, in the Democratic primary for governor.

EDITORIAL: WORKPLACE DRUG USE DEMANDS ATTENTION

Drugs and workplaces don't mix. That's common sense, but now employers have more reasons to take a hard line against employee drug use.

Dayton Daily News
www.daytondailynews.com

MORE THAN 131,000 OHIOANS GET PERMITS TO CARRY CONCEALED GUNS

More than 131,000 Ohioans got their licenses last year to carry concealed weapons — 77,281 new ones and 54,064 renewals, according to Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine.

THE PLAIN DEALER

\$114.5 MILLION PROPOSED FOR NEW OHIO VOTING MACHINES

Ohio counties could soon get some money from the state to help replace aging voting equipment.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD TO FOCUS ON OHIO RACES FOR U.S. SENATE AND GOVERNOR

Planned Parenthood political organizations announced Thursday that they'll spend at least \$20 million in this year's elections, with a particular focus on gubernatorial and Senate races in Ohio and seven other states.

OHIO GOV. JOHN KASICH PROPOSES 6 GUN POLICY CHANGES

Tightening background checks for gun buyers and allowing "red flag" protection orders were among six gun violence policy recommendations made Thursday by a bipartisan panel assembled by Gov. John Kasich.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HASN'T DECIDED WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE IN OPIOID LITIGATION

As U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions promised, the Justice Department on Thursday evening filed a "statement of interest" in the swath of lawsuits being heard in Cleveland that accuse drug manufacturers and distributors of heavily contributing to the nation's opioid epidemic.

THE ENQUIRER

JOHN KASICH'S 'COMMONSENSE' GUN CONTROL PLAN: WOULD NEW OHIO GUN LAWS MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

John Kasich wants to change Ohio's gun laws, touting support for "commonsense" measures from a handful of Republicans and Democrats.

THE BLADE One of America's Great Newspapers

KASICH PROPOSES GUN REFORM MEASURES

Gov. John Kasich on Thursday unveiled a package of proposed gun law reforms to prohibit the sale of armor-piercing ammunition and third-party "strawman" sales of guns to people prohibited from having them.

PROPOSAL WOULD FUND NEW VOTING MACHINES

Ohio would borrow \$114.5 million to help counties replace an aging fleet of voting machines in time by next year under a bill reworked Thursday.

EDITORIAL: RIGHT-TO-WORK INFRINGES ON EMPLOYERS

Is it too much to ask for some consistency from time to time?

EDITORIAL: DENNIS KUCINICH LEADING ON GUN ISSUE

Successful political campaigns sometimes catch a breeze they never counted on because of some unexpected occurrence that changes public attitudes between the time the candidates filed and the time the voters vote.

The Vindicator

SCHIAVONI GETS THE MAHONING DEMOCRATIC ENDORSEMENT FOR GOVERNOR

When it came to endorsing a candidate for governor, the Mahoning County Democratic Party overwhelmingly went for one of its own.

From: AEI Events

Sent: Friday, March 2, 2018 8:56 AM

To: Snider, Grace

Subject: Invitation: The future of infrastructure policy under the Trump administration:
Remarks from Department of Transportation Under Secretary Derek Kan (March 22)

Events



The future of infrastructure policy under the Trump administration: Remarks from Department of Transportation Under Secretary Derek Kan

Thursday, March 22, 2018 | 2:00P 3:30 PM

AEI, Auditorium | 1789 Massachusetts Avenue, NW | Washington, DC 20036

Under Secretary for Policy at the Department of Transportation Derek Kan outlines the details of the Trump administration's infrastructure plan. Following his remarks, AEI's R. Richard Geddes will lead a discussion among infrastructure policy experts to review the main elements of the proposal and the future of US infrastructure policy.

RSVP [Watch Live Online](#)

DESCRIPTION

The Trump administration released its long-awaited infrastructure plan on February 12. The plan includes \$200 billion in federal spending to incentivize \$1.5 trillion in new infrastructure investment nationally. It would streamline environmental permitting, create incentives for state and local governments to raise more revenue, and support greater use of public-private partnerships and other mechanisms to facilitate private participation in infrastructure delivery.

Join AEI as Under Secretary for Policy at the Department of Transportation Derek Kan

outlines the details of the Trump administration's infrastructure plan. Following his remarks, AEI's R. Richard Geddes will lead a discussion among infrastructure policy experts to review the main elements of the proposal and the future of US infrastructure policy.

Join the conversation on social media by following **@AEI** and **@AEIecon** on Twitter and Facebook.

PARTICIPANTS

Kevin DeGood, Center for American Progress

R. Richard Geddes, AEI; Cornell University

Derek Kan, Under Secretary for Policy, Department of Transportation

Joung Lee, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials

Robert A Poole, Reason Foundation

Matt Rose, BNSF Railway Company

REGISTER

RSVP to attend this event.

To watch live online, click **here** on March 22 at 2:00 PM ET. Registration is not required.

CONTACTS

For more information, please contact Isabelle Staff at **Isabelle.Staff@aei.org**, 202.862.5885.

For media inquiries, please contact **MediaServices@aei.org**, 202.862.5829.

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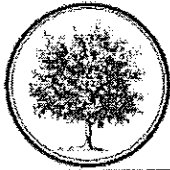


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From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Friday, March 2, 2018 1:14 PM
To: Snider, Grace
Subject: ICYMI: Buckeye's Rea Hederman in National Review, Can States Repair Obamacare's Damage?

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

In National Review, Buckeye's Rea S. Hederman Jr. and the Galen Institute's Doug Badger call on Congress and the administration to give states more latitude to fix their health insurance markets, which is the central recommendation of their new **Mercatus Center** study.

NATIONAL REVIEW

Can States Repair Obamacare's Damage?

National Review
By Doug Badger and Rea Hederman
March 2, 2018

Washington broke insurance markets. It should let states try to fix them.

Having failed to repeal the Affordable Care Act, congressional Republicans now want to create a new **corporate welfare program** to save it.

Here's a better idea: Congress and the administration should give states more latitude to clean up the mess - at no additional cost to the federal government.

That is a central recommendation of a new **Mercatus Center study** that we co-authored. Our study examined congressional and federal proposals that surfaced throughout last year in the broader context of the star-crossed "repeal and replace" debate.

The most promising ideas to repair broken insurance markets emanated not from Washington, but from the states.

That should surprise no one. States have traditionally been the primary regulators of health insurance, as they are for other forms of insurance. Obamacare rests on the hubris that federal bureaucrats could regulate health-insurance markets better than could states.

Federal intervention has proven a mixed blessing or a mixed curse, depending on your point of view. Insurance coverage is more accessible to those with chronic medical conditions who don't have employer-sponsored insurance and don't qualify for Medicare or Medicaid. More low-income people have insurance today than in 2013. If you spend **\$1.8 trillion** on Medicaid expansions and subsidies, you're bound to help some.

But others are hurting. Premiums for non-group coverage **more than doubled** between 2013 (the year before Obamacare took effect) and 2017 and increased by another **37 percent** this year. Consumers, like many insurers, have responded by abandoning those markets. The individual market **began to shrink** in 2016, a contraction that appears to have accelerated last year.

Yet the green shoots of state innovation continue to sprout from Obamacare's ruins. The question is whether Washington will nurture or uproot them.

Our study chronicles how federal legislative efforts to repeal Obamacare gradually evolved to allow more state control over how federal resources would be directed and more latitude to deviate from the law's stultifying regulatory regime.

At the same time, the Trump administration **encouraged states** to take full advantage of an obscure **provision** of the Obamacare statute that permits the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to grant waivers to states to sidestep some of the law's most onerous requirements.

States responded aggressively to the administration's overtures. A number of proposals emerged, each of which set forth cutting-edge ways to make health insurance more affordable, especially to those who don't qualify for federal subsidies.

Most importantly, states had to show that their waivers wouldn't result in additional federal spending. Instead, their programs had to allocate federal dollars more efficiently, reducing premiums and, as a consequence, federal premium-assistance subsidies, holding the federal government harmless.

Alaska, unlike other states, won federal approval for its "reinsurance" waiver. They finance it partially with state funds and partially with federal money that would otherwise have been paid directly to insurers on behalf of low-income enrollees. The results are promising. Premiums for the lowest-priced Bronze plan in the state fell by **25 percent** in 2018. In other states, premiums for such plans rose by a median of 16.4 percent.

Congressional Republicans are learning the wrong lessons from Alaska. The insurance lobby has convinced GOP lawmakers that state reinsurance programs would work even better if they weren't budget-neutral to the federal government. The more the feds **spend**, lobbyists argue, the more consumers will save.

Our study suggests that giving states more control over their markets (rather than more money for insurance companies) is the far better path. Allowing them more latitude to deviate from the ACA's stringent structure can help make insurance more affordable, while still protecting consumers.

Unfortunately, many states are feeling burned. The Trump administration invited them to innovate, then declined to approve many of their innovative proposals. The administration should restore that trust by rescinding Obama-era guidelines that impose counterproductive limitations on waivers and taking additional steps to streamline the waiver approval process.

Congress also should consider building on a legislative **proposal** by Lindsey Graham (R., S.C.) and Bill Cassidy (R., La.) that would empower states to implement consumer-centered health-care reform. The Graham-Cassidy measure would provide federal resources to states instead of to insurance companies and task states with designing programs to make individual health insurance affordable to their residents, regardless of their income or medical condition.

At the very least, Congress should refrain from spending additional federal money on reinsurance arrangements that states can implement in a budget-neutral way. Like the administration, it should instead work to make the Obamacare waiver process more friendly to states.

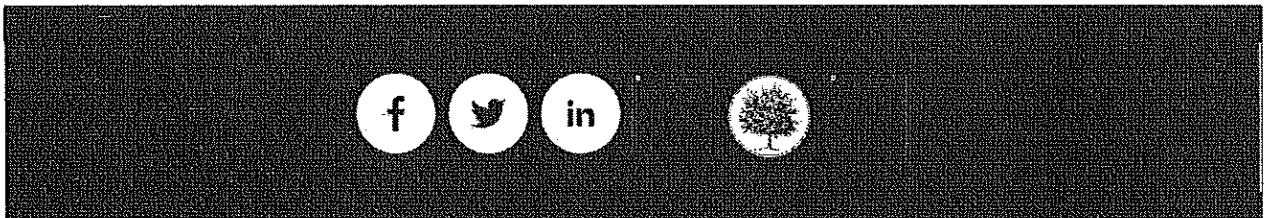
Waivers give states authority to do what Congress has failed to do: calm the market turbulence that Congress itself created with Obamacare's enactment. Congress and the administration should facilitate the use of that authority.

###

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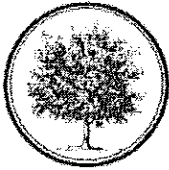
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, March 5, 2018 7:01 AM
To: Snider, Grace
Subject: More Than \$18 Million Spent on The Buckeye Institute's Top 10 List of Worst Capital Budget Requests

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

**More Than \$18 Million Spent on The Buckeye Institute's
Top 10 List of Worst Capital Budget Requests**
Ohio's Capital Budget Riddled with More Than \$85 Million in Pork Spending

= A

Columbus, OH -- Today, **The Buckeye Institute** unveiled its Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018, which total more than \$18 million in spending. Buckeye's review of the capital budget also found more than \$85 million in pork barrel or highly localized projects that should be paid for with private donations or through local efforts.

"As our Top 10 list shows, once again, Ohio's capital budget is riddled with pork projects that benefit narrow local interests and not larger state needs. If these, and other pork projects in the budget, were funded using local or private dollars, as they should be, Ohio could have at least \$85 million more that it could spend on pressing state priorities, save, or

better yet, return to taxpayers," said Greg R. Lawson, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute. "Policymakers should do more to heed our call to focus the capital budget on **strengthening Ohio's physical and democratic infrastructure** and move away from projects of predominately local interest. Simply put, it is hard to see how it benefits someone in Youngstown for Cincinnati to get a soccer stadium or how people in Cleveland benefit from renovations to COSI."

Buckeye's Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018

- **\$400,000** to build government owned broadband networks in North Olmsted, Southern Miami Valley, and Fairborn. The Buckeye Institute has shown these networks would be **better built by the private sector**;
- **\$5 million** for the **COSI Connection Corridor**, a retail and restaurant space, in Columbus;
- **\$1 million** for two **Columbus Zoo exhibits**, which is partially funded by Franklin County property taxes;
- **\$1 million** for an **atrium at the North Market** that will connect it to the 35-story office and residential Market Tower;
- **\$800,000** for six splash pads around the state;
- **\$2.5 million** to expand the **Cleveland Museum of Natural History**;
- **\$1.3 million** to renovate the **Blossom Music Center in Cuyahoga Falls**;
- **\$4 million** for a **new Major League Soccer stadium in Cincinnati**. The money will only be released if Cincinnati is awarded an MLS expansion team;
- **\$1.2 million** for renovations to Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park; and
- **\$1 million** for renovations to the **Toledo Museum of Art**.

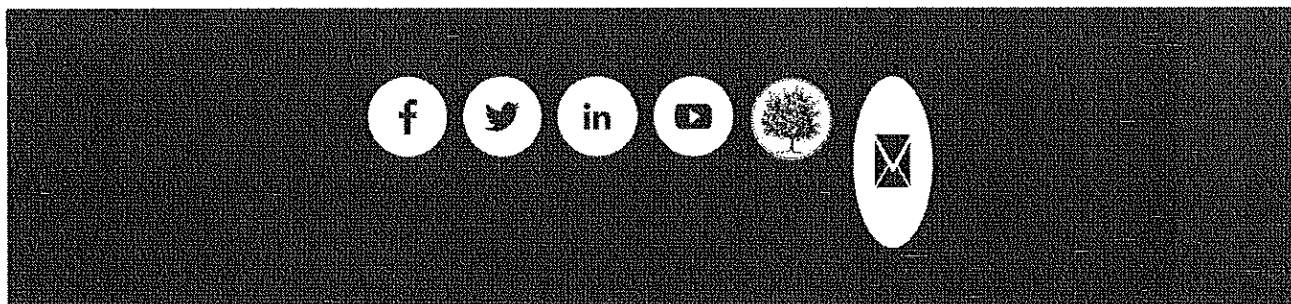
In its report in *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*, Buckeye outlined three principles to guide policymakers - constrain the growth of state government, eliminate corporate and special interest welfare, and focus spending on the core functions of state government. The Buckeye Institute also urged policymakers to use the 2018 capital budget to strengthen Ohio's physical and democratic infrastructure.

A review of the capital budget shows that more than \$1 billion is being used to strengthen Ohio's physical infrastructure and there is no money in the capital budget being used to strengthen Ohio's democratic infrastructure.

###

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Snider, Grace
Sent: Monday, March 5, 2018 9:50 AM
To: 'Greg Lawson'
Subject: RE: Interested Party Testimony on the Capital Budget
Attachments: Witness Information Form.pdf

Thanks for sending, Greg! Attached is the witness form you could either email back, or bring to committee tomorrow.

Thanks again,
Grace

From: Greg Lawson [mailto:greg@buckeyeinstitute.org]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2018 9:40 AM
To: Snider, Grace <Grace.Snider@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Re: Interested Party Testimony on the Capital Budget

Grace:

Please find the attached testimony. I do plan to attend to offer it. Could I get the witness form, or I can just fill out tomorrow.

Greg R. Lawson
Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
88 East Broad Street, Suite 1120 | Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 224-4422 | BuckeyeInstitute.org

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: _____

Name: _____

Are you representing: Yourself _____ Organization _____

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Best Contact Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes _____ No _____

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): _____

Specific Issue: _____

Are you testifying as a: Proponent _____ Opponent _____ Interested Party _____

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes _____ No _____

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? _____

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

From: Snider, Grace
Sent: Monday, March 5, 2018 10:38 AM
To: Hartman, Sarah
Subject: FW: Corrected Testimony & Witness Form
Attachments: 2018-03-06 Testimony Capital Budget HB 529.pdf; 180306 Finance Witness Form.pdf

From: Greg Lawson [mailto:greg@buckeyeinstitute.org]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2018 10:19 AM
To: Snider, Grace <Grace.Snider@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Corrected Testimony & Witness Form

Grace:

Please find attached a corrected version of the testimony. On the cover page I had the wrong committee, so I apologize. This is the correct version for upload.

Also, my witness form is attached as well.

Greg R. Lawson
Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
88 East Broad Street, Suite 1120 | Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 224-4422 | BuckeyeInstitute.org



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Interested Party Testimony Before the Ohio House Finance Committee on House Bill 529

March 6, 2018

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute**

Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Ryan, Ranking Member Cera, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding the Capital Budget.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute, a free-market think tank here in Columbus that advocates for low-tax, low-regulation policies that remove barriers to prosperity for Ohioans.

On February 5, The Buckeye Institute report, *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*, outlined ways to keep Ohio's capital budget focused on principled government spending.¹ Our report encouraged policymakers to be guided by three spending principles: constrain the growth of government, eliminate corporate and special interest welfare, and focus on strengthening Ohio's physical and democratic infrastructures.

In many ways, Ohio's \$2.62 billion budget adheres to these basic principles, but we are concerned that this budget, like others before, remains riddled with too many special interest requests, local projects, and some potential boondoggles that veer from providing core government services and infrastructure.

The Buckeye Institute has just released its Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018,² in which we highlight more than \$18 million of taxpayer dollars spent on pork projects that benefit only narrow local interests and not broader state-wide needs. And that \$18 million is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. All of the special interest projects combined pushes that total to at least \$88 million. That is at least \$85 million of pork that could be spent on more pressing priorities, saved, or returned to taxpayers.

Regrettably, examples of non-essential government spending abound. The \$5 million to build retail and restaurant space at COSI in Columbus—not essential government spending. The \$1 million for orangutan and elephant exhibits at the Columbus Zoo—already subsidized by Franklin County property owners—not essential government spending. The \$800,000 to install splash pads around the state—not essential government spending. And the \$4 million slated for a soccer stadium in Cincinnati—not essential government spending and not likely to live up to the economic hype. As the St. Louis Federal Reserve concluded last year:

Consumers who spend money on sporting events would likely spend the money on other forms of entertainment, which has a similar economic impact. Rather than subsidizing sports stadiums, governments could finance other projects such as infrastructure or education that have the potential to increase productivity and promote economic growth.³

Ultimately, of course, local residents and local taxpayers should have every opportunity to voluntarily choose to fund amphitheaters, performance stages, parks, zoos, and even stadiums out of their own local resources. But Cleveland residents should not be compelled—through state

¹ Greg R. Lawson and Quinn Beeson, *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*, The Buckeye Institute, February 5, 2018.

² More Than \$18 Million Spent on The Buckeye Institute's Top 10 List of Worst Capital Budget Requests, The Buckeye Institute press release, March 5, 2018.

³ Scott A. Wolla, *The Economics of Subsidizing Sports Stadiums*, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, May 2017.

taxes—to pay for the Columbus Zoo, nor should Youngstown residents be made to pay for a soccer venue in Cincinnati.

Then there is the \$400,000 appropriation to build several government-owned broadband networks across the state. As I outlined recently in *Broadband “GON” Wrong*,⁴ private-sector players have already deployed billions of dollars developing state-of-the-art technology to nimbly respond to consumer demands and preferences, while these government-owned networks have proven unable to pay for themselves, leaving taxpayers to pay for networks that few consumers even want to use.

That communities are asking for state money in the capital budget indicates that these networks all too frequently fail to live up to the promises made by government officials, and often lead to further taxpayer subsidies to maintain operations.

Many of the other local projects are not inherently misguided, but insofar as they provide only narrow local benefits and do not strengthen Ohio’s physical infrastructure, state policymakers should remove them from the capital budget. Those funds should instead be spent on Ohio’s pressing needs, such as building and maintaining water and sewer systems, and state roads.

We are also disappointed that this capital budget will not strengthen the state’s democratic infrastructure, including, for example, replacing Ohio’s aging voting machines. Such funding appears allocated in separate legislation, but the capital budget was not then reduced to maintain spending balance—and it should have been.

Finally, and perhaps most critically, policymakers must remember that a lack of fiscal restraint, even during good economic times, unwittingly creates unrealistic spending expectations over time. Using the capital budget to fund local projects rather than state priorities will only make it harder for policymakers to curb and manage state spending when tough economic times inevitably arrive.

Today, even as the state budget looks solidly in the black, the danger of recession and fiscal instability still lurks. Recall, for instance, how unforeseen challenges required immediate and multiple adjustments to the last biennial budget due to lower than expected revenues. Prudence cautions against the tempting but non-essential government spending included in this capital budget. For the sake of Ohio taxpayers, such temptation must be resisted.

Thank you and I look forward to answering any questions that the Committee may have at this time.

###

⁴ Greg R. Lawson, *Broadband “GON” Wrong: Remembering Why Government-Owned Broadband Networks are Bad for Taxpayers*, The Buckeye Institute, February 14, 2018.

About The Buckeye Institute

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WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 3/6/18
Name: Greg M. Lawson
Are you representing: Yourself _____ Organization ☒
Organization (If Applicable): The Buckeye Institute
Position/Title: Research Fellow
Address: 88 E. Broad St. Suite 1120
City: Columbus State: OH Zip: 43215
Best Contact Telephone: 614-224-4422 Email: greg@buckeyeinstitute.org
Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes ☒ No _____

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 529
Specific Issue: Capital Budget Spending locally
Are you testifying as a: Proponent _____ Opponent _____ Interested Party ☒
Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes ☒ No _____
(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)
How much time will your testimony require? 5-10 minutes

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

From: Finlay, Serena
Sent: Monday, March 5, 2018 11:11 AM
To: Paretti, Dominic
Subject: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

REMINDER-DEADLINE TO CO SPONSOR IS THIS FRIDAY AT 4PM



MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Janine Boyd and Representative Kristin Boggs
DATE: February 5, 2018
RE: Request for Co-Sponsorship = 6 Paid Family and Medical Leave

We will soon introduce legislation to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Today we chose to send this co-sponsor request as this date marks the 25th anniversary of FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). This legislation will provide 12 weeks of family and medical leave benefits, which will permit individuals to care for a family member, bond with a new child, or address their own serious health condition.

Out of 178 countries worldwide, the United States is one of three that does not provide paid leave to new mothers. So far five states—California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island offer some sort of paid leave to men and women who provide care. The federal Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons. This time is unpaid and employers with fewer than 50 employees are exempt, which eliminates a large segment of workers. Ohio should lead on the issue of paid leave to grow our economy and allow working people to put family first.

The program will be under the purview of the Department of Job and Family Services. An individual would receive leave insurance benefits for: a health condition which makes him/her unable to perform their job duties; caring for a new child during after birth, adoption,

or foster care placement; caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition; or the individual is taking any other leave as authorized by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. In order to be eligible for program benefits, an individual must file a claim with ODJFS; must have worked at least 680 hours during the base period; premiums have been withheld and remitted for at least one year; and the leave must be for the above-mentioned purposes.

Once established, program benefits will be paid by assessing premiums on employees. Employers will be required to deduct and withhold premiums from employee's wages. However, an employer may opt to pay the contributions on behalf of employees.

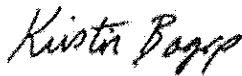
An employee who is covered by an employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that provides the employee with greater leave than that provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act may elect not to participate in the Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director. An employee who elects to opt out of participating in the Program is not liable for any premium or contribution that would otherwise be due under the Program.

Working people in Ohio should not have to worry about losing their job or falling behind financially just to take care of a sick child or relative; address their own serious health condition; or care for and bond with their newborn child. Ohio cities like Dayton and Cincinnati are leading on leave. By allowing working people to put their family first, we can truly make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Dominic Paretti, at 614-644-5079 or via email at Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov and Serena Finlay, 614-466-1896 or via email at Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Friday, March 9 at 4:00pm.**



Janine Boyd
State Representative, Ohio House District 09



Kristin Boggs
State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: Snider, Grace
Sent: Monday, March 5, 2018 3:27 PM
To: 'Greg Lawson'
Subject: RE: Corrected Testimony & Witness Form

Thank you, Greg!

From: Greg Lawson [mailto:greg@buckeyeinstitute.org]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2018 10:19 AM
To: Snider, Grace <Grace.Snider@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Corrected Testimony & Witness Form

Grace:

Please find attached a corrected version of the testimony. On the cover page I had the wrong committee, so I apologize. This is the correct version for upload.

Also, my witness form is attached as well.

Greg R. Lawson

Research Fellow
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(614) 224-4422 | BuckeyeInstitute.org

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OHIO REPORT MONDAY, MARCH 5

Children Services Rule To Get Second Look After Concerns Raised At JCARR

Report Outlines Ohio's Rankings Ahead Of Kasich's Address

Lawmaker Looks To Crack Down On Theft In Office

Opioid Prescriptions Fall For Fifth Straight Year, Pharmacy Board Reports

DeWine Sues Monsanto, Crew SC Operator/Investor And MLS

Planned Updates To Give Farmers New Tool In Curbing Phosphorus Runoff

House District 83: Former Nurse, Business Leader Face Off In GOP Primary

Rover, OEPA Clash Over Landslides, Detected Chemical Traces

New Member Profile: Rep. McClain Follows In Father's Footsteps

Politics Notebook: Buckeye Institute Highlights Capital Budget 'Pork'; Taylor Picks Up Endorsement; Schiavoni Releases New Ad; Balderson Touts War Chest

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

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CALENDARS

Day Planner

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Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, March 6

Legislative Committees

Senate Public Utilities (Committee Record) (Chr. Beagle, B., 466-6247), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:30 a.m.

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of M. Beth Trombold, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and Gregory Murphy, Power Siting Board

HB 478 **WIRELESS SERVICES** (Smith, R., LaTourette, S.) To modify the law regarding wireless service and the placement of small cell wireless facilities in the public way. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Smith, R., 466-1366), Rm. 313, 10 a.m.

HB 529 **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS** (Ryan, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 508 **OHIO CORPS** (Ryan, S., Reineke, B.) To establish the OhioCorps Pilot Project and to make an appropriation. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 378 **BROADBAND GRANTS** (Smith, R., Cera, J.) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation. (7th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments, substitute & vote)

House Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Schaffer, T., 466-8100), Rm. 121, 10 a.m.

SB 226 **TAX HOLIDAY** (Bacon, K.) To provide for a permanent three-day sales tax "holiday" each August during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use tax. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Agriculture & Rural Development (Committee Record) (Chr. Hill, B., 644-6014), Rm. 121, 1 p.m.

HB 501 **VETERINARY TITLES** (LaTourette, S., Huffman, S.) To change professional title of "registered veterinary technician" to "registered veterinary nurse." (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HR 298 **ALFALFA PRODUCTS** (Sprague, R., Hill, B.) To recognize the existence of two alfalfa products in light of the recent action of the Ingredient Definition Committee of the Association of American Feed Control Officials. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Senate Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 p.m.

SB 266 **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS** (Oelslager, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make

reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30,2020. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

SB 225 **BROADBAND GRANTS** (Schiavoni, J., Eklund, J.) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 246 **STUDENT REMOVAL** (Lehner, P., Manning, G.) To enact the "SAFE Act" to revise the procedures for emergency removal of a student, to prohibit certain suspensions and expulsions of students in grades pre- kindergarten through three, to require each public school to implement a positive behavior intervention and supports framework in accordance with state standards, and to make an appropriation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 329 **PYRAMID SCHEMES** (Pelanda, D.) To modify the law governing pyramid promotional schemes. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

House Session (Committee Record), Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357, Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Fritsche Theater, Otterbein University, 30 S. Grove St., Westerville, 7 p.m.

- Joint convention for the Governor's State of the State address

Agency Calendar

Small Business Advisory Council, Women's Small Business Accelerator's ThinkSpace, 24 Westerview Dr., Westerville, 10 a.m.

Public Facilities Commission, 35th Fl., 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, 3:30 p.m.

Event Planner

OhioLINK, Ohio Department of Higher Education discussion on textbook affordability and open educational resources, Otterbein University, Towers Hall, Westerville, 10 a.m.

Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for McColley)

Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Granville Township) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Chair \$350 to Citizens for Scott Ryan)

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Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

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Volume #87, Report #43 -- Monday, March 5, 2018

Children Services Rule To Get Second Look After Concerns Raised At JCARR

The Department of Job and Family Services will refile a proposed rule dealing with child abuse and neglect investigations after agencies said it would lead to more cases and higher costs.

The Public Children Services Association of Ohio told members of the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review Monday that the proposed rules would prevent agencies from making "collateral contacts" before deciding to accept a case. That means they would not be able to check certain details, such as whether a parent was in drug treatment, before opening an investigation.

ODJFS argued the county agencies have long been advised in state guidance not to do so. Contacting other people about a potential child abuse or neglect case before contacting the parent can jeopardize the parent's privacy.

The proposed rule changes were designed in part to incorporate revisions to the federal Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, which require more mandatory reporting in cases where children are born addicted to drugs.

The department included the provision preventing collateral contacts before cases to reinforce provisions that have been in guidance for more than a decade, Carla Carpenter, deputy director for the Office of Families and Children at ODJFS, told JCARR.

"The change to the rule merely echoes the guidance that we have been providing since 2005," she said.

Mary Wachtel, director of public policy for the PCSAO, said the rules would make it harder for agencies to screen potential cases by preventing them from following up for more information on referrals before opening an official investigation. It could lead to agencies opening investigations for children who aren't being neglected or abused, opening cases that would require home visits and other costs, she said.

"We are talking about a judicious, somewhat limited use of pre-screening collateral contacts," she said.

Other states allow for collateral contacts before cases are screened in, she said. Those states often have limits, such as that the only people to be contacted would be mandatory reporters of abuse or neglect, such as medical providers.

Ms. Wachtel suggested the department convene a stakeholder group to work out a solution.

"There is a fix here," she said. "We respectfully request that the rules be withdrawn to give time for a substantive discussion and consideration."

The department consulted with stakeholders before drafting the rule, Ms. Carpenter said.

Agencies are given 24 hours to gather information from internal sources, such as if the parent has had previous contact with the child welfare system, and to work back with the person referring the case, she said.

In many cases, particularly those involving drug abuse under the CARA provisions, the person making the referral is a medical professional, Ms. Carpenter said. In those cases, the provider can obtain a release of medical records from the parent to demonstrate that the parent has a drug treatment care plan, for example.

Lawmakers pressed the department on what would happen if the person making the referral was not a medical provider.

"How can you get a written release when you're not allowed to make a collateral contact?" Sen. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) asked.

The agencies would be able to look at the information they have and to ask follow-up to the person referring the case, Ms. Carpenter said. The rules follow the same procedure as guidance in place now.

"They essentially would be making that decision the same way they do today," she said.

JCARR Chair Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) asked how many counties are not complying with the guidelines.

Ms. Carpenter said the department wasn't aware of deviation from the guidance until recently.

Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) said the agency indicated the rule change would have no fiscal effect for the state or for counties, but it could increase the number of cases agencies take on.

The department said the change only codified what was expected to be standard practice, and increases weren't anticipated, Ms. Carpenter said.

"We have a duty as children services agencies to respond to reports that require our attention," she said. "We don't have control over what comes through our front door."

JCARR members caucused for about 45 minutes on the issue, after which ODJFS officials said they would refile the rule pending further discussions with stakeholders.

Report Outlines Ohio's Rankings Ahead Of Kasich's Address

While the state comes in above national averages for the number of residents with health insurance, students enrolled in Pre-K, and structurally sound bridges, it is lagging behind in a number of other areas, a new report shows.

One Ohio Now, a coalition of more than 100 health and human service organizations, labor unions and advocacy groups, released its third annual State of Ohio report on Monday. It shows Ohio's rankings in 16 areas encompassing health, education, the economy and equality.

State Director Gavin DeVore Leonard said it's important that Ohioans have a full picture of how the state is doing before the governor delivers his annual State of the State address on Tuesday.

"Unfortunately, what typically happens with the State of the State is sort of cherry picking the things that make you sound the best, the things you feel like you have the most likelihood of succeeding on in the future, and then often times sort of glazing over the things that are really at the foundation of what's happening, particularly in a place like Ohio, where there is just no getting around it, we are struggling. We're having a hard time-keeping up," he said during a Statehouse press event.

Gov. John Kasich and those close to him haven't divulged what his speech will entail, but he told reporters last week that it will be "odd" and "different" than in past years. Being his last SOTS address, he's expected to recap his accomplishments while in office and focus on how he's helped to change state operations during his tenure. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 2, 2018)

Responding to the One Ohio Now report, his spokesman, Jon Keeling, touted the impacts the governor's leadership has had on the state over the last seven years.

"Jobs are up. Wages are growing. More Ohioans have health coverage. Support for K-12 education is at record levels. Poverty is the lowest in nearly a decade. We're taking better care of the vulnerable and those who live in the shadows. And Ohioans are wearing our colors with pride in ways this state hasn't seen in a long time," he said.

"The governor has set a new standard for leadership here in Ohio, and if those values are continued the stage is set for even more progress long after he's gone."

In addition to showing where the state ranks nationally, the report also compares last year's stats to this year's. As infant mortality, overdose deaths and poverty got worse in Ohio in 2017, the state has improved in the areas of college tuition, home foreclosures and hunger.

Despite improvements in some categories, it shouldn't be overlooked that Ohio still ranks at the bottom of states, Mr. DeVore Leonard said.

Higher investments in underperforming areas, such as K-12 and programs combatting hunger could save the state billions of dollars in the long term because Ohioans would be better off, he said.

Especially in K-12, where spending on an inflationary basis has been stagnant since 2002, it's "hard to be a recipe for success," he said.

"We believe that this can be solved and that's actually what the data shows when you look at what's happening around the country," Mr. DeVore Leonard said. "We're nervous that what's happening is that the legislature and the governor are essentially ignoring what the data tells us about how to move our state. They're ignoring what the data tells us about how we should actually get fit and get strong here in Ohio."

To find the funding to make needed investments, he suggested the state repeal a controversial small business tax cut and increase income tax rates for the state's wealthiest.

Although Gov. Kasich has been a champion of eliminating personal income taxes, Mr. DeVore Leonard said a recent softening of his policy stances gives advocates hope that he could be swayed by the data in the report.

"Over the past several weeks and the last few years we've seen that the governor has shown a willingness to reconsider when the facts are just too clear to overcome," he said, citing the governor's support of Medicaid expansion and gun policy proposals.

Mr. DeVore Leonard was joined at the rollout of the report by Trina Payne, executive director of the Ross County Community Action Commission, small business owner Dan Heck, and Vincent Johns Jr. with Faith in Public Life.

Ms. Payne said she's most concerned about the rise in drug overdose deaths in Appalachia - something One Ohio Now tracked for the first time this year.

"Data shows that we must invest in our future as a state to ensure that these numbers decrease and families and communities are given resources to be successful," she said.

Lawmaker Looks To Crack Down On Theft In Office

Public officials who get caught with their hands in the cookie jar would soon face steeper penalties under recently introduced legislation.

The proposal (SB 268) sponsored by Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) would establish first- and second-degree felony offenses for theft in office.



Sen. Wilson

Under current law, theft in office of any amount is limited to a third-degree felony that carries a maximum sentence of three years in prison.

The proposal would change the law to mirror existing penalties for theft. A theft in office of between \$150,000 and \$750,000 would result in a second-degree felony charge that carries a maximum sentence of up to eight years in prison.

Sen. Wilson said the legislation came about after conversations with State Auditor Dave Yost.

"We have a different set of standards for theft when it is someone in office, and in my estimation it shouldn't be," he said in an interview.

A theft of more than \$750,000 would result in a first-degree felony charge, making the offender eligible for a maximum prison sentence of 11 years.

In addition, the measure would allow courts to include the cost of a forensic audit in a restitution order when the victim is a public entity.

Rep. Derek Merrin (R-Maumee) has introduced legislation (HB 391) to include the cost of accounting done to determine the extent of an economic loss for restitution purposes. It was recently amended to limit the amount of restitution to be granted for accounting or auditing costs to be reasonable and not exceed the value of the property stolen or damaged.

Sen. Wilson said he would be open to limiting the auditing costs that can be recouped, but wants to ensure that the public is made whole.

"I am open to that but my main concern is that the public not pay and the person who is audited and found guilty has to pay the costs," he said.

Sen. Wilson believes the measure will be well received in the legislature.

"I think it's so logical it will pass unanimously," he said.

Rep. Robert Cupp (R-Lima) is expected to introduce companion legislation in the lower chamber.

The proposal would also bar those convicted of theft in office from serving in a position of public trust.

"Theft in office is a severe crime that warrants an equally severe punishment," Auditor Yost said in a statement.

Opioid Prescriptions Fall For Fifth Straight Year, Pharmacy Board Reports

Doctors in Ohio prescribed fewer opioids in 2017, continuing an ongoing trend, according to data released Monday by the State Board of Pharmacy.

It was the fifth year in a row the number of opioid prescriptions reported to the state's Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System fell.

There were 568 million opioid doses dispensed to Ohio patients in 2017, the report found, down from 631 million in 2016 and 28.4% from an all-time high of 793 million in 2012.

There were 9.3 million total prescriptions dispensed, down from 10.1 million in 2016 and down from a high of 12.6 million in 2012.

"Ohio has one of the most comprehensive and aggressive approaches in the country to tackling the opioid epidemic," Pharmacy Board Executive Director Steven W. Schierholt said in a statement. "Through improvements to OARRS, new prescribing rules and guidelines, shuttering pill mills and aggressive regulatory action against unscrupulous prescribers, the state is making considerable progress in reducing the supply of prescription opioids and other controlled substances that can be abused or diverted."

The OARRS system saw more than 88 million patient reports requested, along with an 88% decrease in the number of people engaged on doctor shopping, the board reported.

"It is widely accepted that prescription opioid abuse often progresses to the use of heroin and other illicit drugs. That is why Ohio's efforts to reduce exposure to prescription opioids are essential to combatting this public health crisis," said Tracy Plouck, director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

The report also found a decrease in the number of prescribers and patients receiving opioid prescriptions. The patient total dropped to just below 2 million, after topping 3 million in 2012. The number of prescribers also fell to just over 55,100, from a high of nearly 66,650 in 2012.

The number of benzodiazepines dispensed to patients also fell, dropping to 233 million solid doses from 254 million in 2016 and 297 million in 2012.

The report also tracked the number of opioid doses prescribed for acute pain, a recent point of emphasis for the state, which has limited the supply doctors can prescribe.

The number of doses for acute pain fell to just under 17 million in 2017, from a high of 31.2 million in 2012. The average prescription also fell from 8.37 days to 7.1 days.

County-level data is also available from the Board of Pharmacy.

The Ohio State Medical Association said doctors have been working to reduce the number of opioid painkillers given to patients.

"Ohio physicians for this entire decade have dedicated themselves to being part of the solution to the opioid epidemic which has gripped our state and we're seeing the positive effects of that commitment," OSMA spokesman Reggie Fields said in a statement. "Through better pain management treatment efforts and clearer state rules and guidelines, physicians are better equipped to make appropriate decisions when it is necessary to prescribe an opioid."

The OSMA pointed to its Smart Rx program, designed to educate prescribers about the safe use of opioids.

"Still, more work needs to be done to reduce the number of opioids dispensed and Ohio physicians remain committed to providing high-quality medical care that is safe and in the best interest of patients," he said.

DeWine Sues Monsanto, Crew SC Operator/Investor And MLS

Attorney General Mike DeWine on Monday announced the filing of two lawsuits - one against a multinational agrochemical company and another designed to halt the possible move of the Columbus Crew.

Filed in Hamilton County Common Pleas Court, Mr. DeWine accuses Monsanto of producing and selling polychlorinated biphenyls from 1929 to 1977 despite knowing the risk the chemical compound posed to humans.

"Ohioans deserve to enjoy their natural resources without contamination from these toxic chemicals, and we believe Monsanto should be held responsible for the damage it caused," the gubernatorial candidate said in a statement. "Our goal in taking this action is to protect Ohio, its citizens, and its natural resources."

The company did not respond to a request for comment on the lawsuit by publication time.

PCBs were used in paints, inks, caulks, sealants, lubricants, electrical equipment and carbonless copy paper, according to the lawsuit.

The chemical compound builds up in living things and contaminates the food chain. In humans, PCBs are associated with cancer, skin and eye disorders, reduced birth weight and liver damage.

The contamination has also been found in fish, soil, plants and the air, the lawsuit alleged.

Despite learning of the toxicity of the chemical in the 1930, the company continued to use the product, according to the lawsuit, which alleges Monsanto was negligent and created a public nuisance through its manufacture, distribution and sale of PCBs.

The lawsuit seeks compensation and damages to investigate and remove PCBs from the state's natural resources.

Crew Lawsuit: Mr. DeWine also filed a lawsuit against Precourt Sports Ventures and Major League Soccer to stave off the soccer club's move to Austin.

The lawsuit is based on the "the Art Modell law," which states that an Ohio professional sports team that uses a "tax-supported facility" and receives financial assistance from the state or a political subdivision cannot relocate without an agreement with the political subdivision. It also must give the political subdivision or any group of individuals who reside in the area an opportunity to buy the team.

Among the allegations in the lawsuit is that the franchise accepted \$5 million in state funds for improvements to parking facilities, the land on which its home stadium sits is exempt from property taxes and the land is leased at below-market rate.

"Loyal Crew fans in Columbus have invested their time and loyalty in this team, and they have allowed the Crew SC to capitalize from financial incentives paid for by their tax dollars. I am left with no other choice than to file this suit to ensure our laws are followed," Mr. DeWine said.

The franchise did not return a call seeking comment by publication time.

AG DeWine was joined in the lawsuit by the city of Columbus.

"Just as importantly, the team plays in a taxpayer-supported facility, and Precourt Sports Ventures and Major League Soccer have accepted financial assistance from the state of Ohio and the City of Columbus. State law provides us with this protection," Mayor Andrew Ginther said.

The lawsuit, filed in Franklin County Common Pleas Court, was the brainchild of Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington). (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 6, 2017)

"I am very pleased that our state's top law enforcement officer is vigorously enforcing longstanding Ohio law," he said in a statement. "The Crew SC is our team. Our town. Neither the MLS or Precourt Sports Ventures can operate above Ohio law."

Planned Updates To Give Farmers New Tool In Curbing Phosphorus Runoff

Upcoming improvements to a key tool could provide farmers with more real-time, actionable data on phosphorus runoff coming from their farms.

Called the Ohio Phosphorus Risk Index, the resource is facilitated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is soon slated for a host of upgrades that farmers and environmental groups in Ohio say will provide one more asset toward curbing phosphorous runoff.

"The idea is you'll put in real actual data and so you will get really specific information then on how to make use of that data," Ohio Farm Bureau spokesman Joe Cornely said in an interview. "And that's crucial because every farm is different - the soil type, the management practices, the type of nutrients."

The tool is aimed at assisting farmers in gauging their risk for phosphorus runoff. That runoff can degrade surface water quality and contributed to harmful algal blooms.

"Providing farmers with tools to be more efficient and environmentally conscious will help their businesses and their watershed," said Peter Bucher, water resources director for the Ohio Environmental Council. "Further identifying what works best at reducing nutrient runoff will allow more farmers to implement the appropriate practices for their property."

The new index is years in the making and is thanks to a project led by Elizabeth Dayton, a researcher in Ohio State University's College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. The project was funded through a \$1 million USDA Conservation Innovation Grant and \$1 million in matching donations from Ohio farmer groups.

"The index provides a long-term, average estimate of field-scale phosphorus loss based on farmer specific inputs," Ms. Dayton said. "It gives farmers the ability to compare crop management scenarios and evaluate changes in phosphorus runoff, allowing them to prioritize time and resources when making management decisions."

The tool also helps put Ohio's goal to reduce phosphorus levels in Lake Erie by 40% by 2025 within reach, Ms. Dayton said. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 13, 2017)

"The index quantifies how voluntary changes in agricultural practices contribute to achieving target phosphorus runoff reduction goals," she added. "If you multiply that by the millions of crop acres in Ohio, the 40% reduction target appears achievable."

Mr. Cornely said solving the issue of phosphorus levels will "take a whole toolbox."

"And this is one more tool to go in that box," he said. "So when you look at this as it's employed in conjunction with other tools - some that exist, some still being in development - this is one good piece of that arsenal we need to fix the problem."

After harmful algal bloom activity in 2017 tied the third worst season on record, the United States Environmental Protection Agency is moving to reconsider whether Lake

Erie's western basin should be classified as impaired. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 22, 2018)

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has touted record spending on water quality projects in 2017, although advocates said more resources are needed. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 27, 2017)

House District 83: Former Nurse, Business Leader Face Off In GOP Primary

Republican contenders for the 83rd House District seat each say they can bring a unique perspective to the General Assembly thanks to their respective expertise in the medical and business fields.

Cheryl Buckland, a member of the Ohio Republican Party's State Central and Executive Committee, and Jon Cross, CEO of the Hardin County Chamber and Business Alliance, are vying to succeed Rep. Robert Sprague (R-Findlay), who is running for state treasurer.

Ms. Buckland, 63, was appointed to the ORP's leadership committee in 2013 and has been elected twice since then. A self-described "non-traditional candidate," she's spent four decades working at skilled nursing facilities, teaching nursing students and operating her own extended care facility.

"We have not had a nurse in the General Assembly since 2010," Ms. Buckland said. "With all due respect, we have a lot of people making healthcare decisions without a healthcare background.... I feel I can be a voice for every healthcare discipline."

Mr. Cross, 38, has a background in commercial real estate. He's held the top job at the Hardin County chamber since 2014 and before that spent several stints dabbling in politics in Kansas, California and Texas. In addition to some northeast Ohio campaigns, he also spent a two-year span as an advance man for then-California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

It's his current role, however, that he says gives him an up close look at Ohio's competitiveness with other states and places him on the front lines of drawing and keeping businesses in the Buckeye State.

"Every day as an economic development director, I'm responsible for helping to attract new businesses to our community and our region and helping existing companies with their current demands," Mr. Cross said. "So I think I bring a unique perspective to understanding what it takes to attract a business to Ohio or keep a business open and successful in Ohio."

When it comes to the forthcoming race for House speaker shaping up between Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) and Rep. Larry Householder (R-Glenford), both candidates declined to publicly weigh in at this point.

"Right now that's my focus: the primary," Ms. Buckland said. "I know both the gentlemen and I'm happy to make a declaration of support when that's necessary."

And although he said he's met with both speaker candidates, Mr. Cross echoed that sentiment. "My philosophy has been I have to win my race first," he said.

But there are plenty of other areas in which the candidates remain at odds. Mr. Cross in particular has questioned whether his opponent shares true conservative principles.

"I'm a proud Republican who supports our president," Mr. Cross said. "I'm a strong pro-life advocate. I will do anything I can to help save and protect human life. I don't believe my opponent is."

Ms. Buckland denied any claim that she doesn't support life. Still, she said her medical background has given her the ability to emotionally detach from the issue.

"As a health professional I've been trained to put my personal feelings aside and look at what is in the best interest of the patient," Ms. Buckland said. "When we look at issues that create such an emotional response in people what I can do is come to the table and get pragmatic answers. I support life, I respect death but I'm also very pragmatic and an objective thinker."

Although she supports life in healthcare and abortion-related matters, she also questioned whether politicians have inserted themselves too far into the patient-doctor relationship.

She lists her priorities if elected as advocating for farmers, steering health policy and supporting efforts to curb the opioid epidemic - an issue she saw firsthand through the addiction of her grandson. She described herself as an "out-of-the-box thinker" who can bring a new perspective to the drug fight.

"I know what I know and what I know I know very well but I'm not an expert in everything," Ms. Buckland said. "I would like to be a voice when we look at our entitlement programs - not unlike the drug crisis - and say are we spending the right dollars in the right places?"

She and her husband sold their extended care facility in 2008, but she said the experience running a business will give her valuable insight to carry into the Statehouse. She said her world travel would also be an asset - including stays in Africa, El Salvador, Russia as well as time spent delivering Polio vaccines in Portugal.

Mr. Cross said his desire to tackle issues from the business perspective easily ties into other pressing challenges facing the state, including workforce development, educational attainment, opioid addiction and adequately funding local communities.

"My largest overarching campaign platform is to make Ohio and the 83rd District safer, stronger and open for business," he said. "How do we get better and how do we

compete and how do we make sure policies are not driving people, business, education out of the state?"

His experience across the country, he said, showed him a new perspective on where Ohio stands in business friendliness compared to other states. He wants to be a voice for businesses large and small and is a strong defender of the 2nd Amendment, he said.

"We want to make sure rural America, rural Ohio, where you have large corporations to family farms, that perspective is brought into the conversation and policy decisions," Mr. Cross said.

Ms. Buckland and her husband, Larry, have seven stepchildren, 15 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Among her talents, she lists flamenco and tap dancing.

Mr. Cross, when he's not eating pizza and burgers on the campaign trail, enjoys spending time with his wife, Christina, and playing sports with his two sons, ages 3 and 7.

The winner of the Republican nomination will likely face Democrat Ashley Philipp of McComb who is running unopposed in the primary.

Subscribers Note: This story is part of a series focusing on key primary races for Ohio legislative seats. See Gongwer's Election Page for more information on 2018 contests, including our Key Races.

Rover, OEPA Clash Over Landslides, Detected Chemical Traces

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Rover Pipeline builders continue to lock horns - this time engaging in a contentious back-and-forth over several land slips posing "serious threat to environmental resources."

The OEPA is also requesting new tests after the presence of a manufactured chemical, tetrachloroethene, was found in some drilling returns in Stark County.

The two issues are the latest battle grounds in the ongoing dispute between the two entities - which is simultaneously playing out in an ongoing court case in Stark County. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 5, 2018)

The landslip issue came to the forefront last month when Rover Pipeline LLC requested the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approve temporary workspace for it to repair 28 landslips in Ohio and West Virginia.

But the OEPA, in a subsequent missive to FERC said the company's online filing was the first notice the agency received of the situation and blasted the company for failing to adequately notify the state.

"Ohio EPA is concerned that Rover and FERC did not immediately bring to our attention what Rover now describes as 'a serious threat to sensitive environmental resources,'" OEPA wrote. "Instead of trying to work around Ohio, we again call on Rover to be forthright and provide us with information so we can ensure the environment and citizens are protected."

Rover, meanwhile, argues the state is attempting to besmirch the company in order to gain more leverage in Ohio's ongoing lawsuit. And it accuses state regulators of not fully reading the company's filings in its "haste to cast aspersions."

"Ohio EPA's letter is the latest in a string of baseless claims regarding Rover that attempt to denigrate Rover to advance its own litigation position," Rover's response reads. "Notwithstanding that Ohio EPA does not have jurisdiction in this matter, Rover, on a voluntary basis, has cooperated with Ohio EPA regarding all of its inquiries irrespective of jurisdiction, including on potential impacts from Rover's construction activities."

The OEPA has accused the company of claiming the state has no role in protecting its own environment - an idea the agency called "absurd."

The agency wrote that it "absolutely" expects "to be informed of these troubling threats" and involved in "permitting of any potential impacts to streams and wetlands."

"Moreover, where impacts have occurred, Rover needs to clearly gain our approval of actions to minimize impacts and repair the damage they have done," OEPA added.

The ongoing tiff over those land slips is just one of the conflicts the parties are engaged in. Another dispute arising in recent week centers on the presence of tetrachloroethene or PCE in some drilling fluid returns along the Tuscarawas River.

PCE is a liquid chemical that in high levels is thought to headaches, dizziness, unconsciousness and other effects and it is considered by the government as a potential carcinogen, according to the Ohio Department of Health.

The chemical levels detected in Rover returns registered below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's regional screening risk level for direct contact, according to the OEPA, but levels clocked in above the screening threshold of soil leaching to groundwater.

As a result, OEPA asked federal regulators to force Rover to conduct additional sampling along with a separate sampling of drilling fluid source water in an effort to pinpoint the PCE's point of origin.

"These additional samples should be taken immediately and the results submitted to our attention for further evaluation," OEPA wrote.

Rover, in turn, argues that PCE is a "prominent contaminant in the environment" and that Ohio has reported multiple instances of detections in the environment in circumstances not affiliated with the project. The company characterized the levels were "minor and non-hazardous."

"Ohio EPA has documented impacts of PCE contamination in the waters of the state and engaged in several initiatives to achieve attainment," Rover said. "Accordingly, Ohio EPA's new-found concerns are as spurious as they are disingenuous."

New Member Profile: Rep. McClain Follows In Father's Footsteps

Rep. McClain has worked in business and currently serves as director of finance and customer service for Doc Investments LLC, an online precious metals retailer. The metals retailer was designed to emphasize a low-cost retail model.

"I'm pretty experienced with the changing of what the business market looks like with online retail and some of the opportunities that go along with that," he said.

As state representative, he hopes to focus on policies that will help build small businesses.

Rep. McClain said another important focus for him is on policies that help families. Rep. McClain and his wife have been married for more than 10 years and have three children, ages 2, 4 and 8.

"I'm about Ohio families," he said. "I value the family structure greatly and what that does in setting kids up, and Ohio up, our communities up for greatness."

Promoting families can help communities deal with issues and help each other, he said.

"I want to be an advocate for families taking care of each other, being good stewards of our children and being able to foster environments where people have the resources they need to find the help that they need in their own communities and foster a culture of people helping people," he said.

Rep. McClain said he spends a lot of his time outside of work with his children and family as well as remodeling his house.

He holds a bachelor's degree from Bluffton University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Findlay.

At Bluffton, Rep. McClain was on the baseball team, playing several positions including shortstop, outfield and pitcher. One summer he traveled Europe with Athletes in Action, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ. The team played clubs in France, Germany and the Czech Republic, while also doing ministry activities with children and at camps.

"It was almost a barnstorming tour to spread baseball in Europe," he said.

Although he's familiar with the work of the House after seeing his father's experience, Rep. McClain said he hopes to prove himself and find ways to contribute, he said.

"The hat's on my head now and I'm moving forward to do everything I can to be responsive," he said.

Politics Notebook: Buckeye Institute Highlights Capital Budget 'Pork'; Taylor Picks Up Endorsement; Schiavoni Releases New Ad; Balderson Touts War Chest

The Buckeye Institute on Monday unveiled its Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018.

All told, the projects highlighted by the Buckeye Institute total more than \$18 million, according to the report.

Among the projects singled out is \$4 million for a Major League Soccer stadium in Cincinnati, \$2.5 million to expand the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and \$5 million for the COSI Connection Corridor.

"If these, and other pork projects in the budget, were funded using local or private dollars, as they should be, Ohio could have at least \$85 million more that it could spend on pressing state priorities, save, or better yet, return to taxpayers," Greg R. Lawson, research fellow at Institute, said in a statement.

Mr. Lawson also lamented the lack of funding for strengthening the state's physical and democratic infrastructure.

"Policymakers should do more to heed our call to focus the capital budget on strengthening Ohio's physical and democratic infrastructure and move away from projects of predominately local interest," he said. "Simply put, it is hard to see how it benefits someone in Youngstown for Cincinnati to get a soccer stadium or how people in Cleveland benefit from renovations to COSI."

Taylor Endorsement: Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor on Monday picked up an endorsement in her gubernatorial bid in the form of U.S. Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.).

In announcing his endorsement, Mr. Daines said he has known Ms. Taylor's running mate, Nathan Estruth, for many years.

"Lt. Governor Mary Taylor is a conservative who has and will continue to challenge the status quo establishment in Ohio. It is important to elect leaders in states across the country - and especially in the swing state of Ohio - who will fight for a bold conservative agenda alongside the people's representatives in Washington," he said in a statement.

"We need more private sector experience and principled conservatives to tame the overreach of government at the federal and state levels, and the Mary Taylor/Nathan Estruth ticket are the only ones in either party who bring that for the people of Ohio."

Added Ms. Taylor in a statement: "Senator Daines' support today and over the next 68 days adds to our growing momentum as conservatives across Ohio and the country rally around my campaign as the true conservative in this race."

New Ad: Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) is out with a new ad in which he highlights his desire to create opportunities for future generations.

The 30-second spot, "For Them," features Sen. Schiavoni's family, including his two children.

"As a parent, everything you do is for them. The simple lessons, the big decisions, you want them to succeed," he says in the ad. "But you worry - what opportunities will be there for them?"

Balderson Warchest: The congressional campaign of Sen. Troy Balderson on Monday announced that it has raised \$300,000 in the eight weeks since the Zanesville Republican officially entered the race.

"This campaign has had non-stop momentum since day one, and I could not be more grateful to the many contributors of this effort," he said in a statement. "So many people from my Senate District and throughout Central Ohio have asked to be a part of our campaign because they know that my conservative record makes me the best candidate to help fix a broken Washington."

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Thursday, March 15

Criminal Sentencing Commission, 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Tuesday, March 6

Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for McColley)

Wednesday, March 7

Ohioans to Stop Execution news conference on clemency hearing, Ladies Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Monday, March 12

Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) fundraiser, Queen City Club, 331 E. Fourth Street, Cincinnati, 5 p.m., (Host: \$5,000 | Sponsor: \$2,500 | Supporter: \$1,000 | Attendee: \$500 to Steve Wilson for Ohio)

Tuesday, March 13

Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) fundraiser, The Keep, 50 W. Broad Street, Columbus, 4:30 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for Anne Gonzales)

Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) & Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) fundraiser, Pins Mechanical Co., 6558 Riverside Drive, Dublin, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$250 to Citizens for Stephanie Kunze and/or Citizens for Duffey)

Wednesday, March 14

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) fundraiser, Pub Mahone, 31 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Friends of Bill Coley)

Tuesday, March 20

Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) & Sen. Lou Terhar (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Hackett for Ohio and/or Friends of Lou Terhar)

Wednesday, March 21

Sen. President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Crystal, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 7:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$2,500 | Host: \$1,000 | Guest: \$500 to Citizens for Obhof)

Tuesday, April 10

Sen. Gayle Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) & Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) fundraiser, Buckeye Bourbon House, 36 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Committee to Elect Gayle Manning and/or Citizens for Stephanie Kunze)

Wednesday, April 11

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) & Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Lounge, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Peterson for Good Government and/or Steve Wilson for Ohio)

Tuesday, April 17

Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton) & Sen. Frank Hoagland (R-Adena) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Checks to Oelslager for Ohio Committee and/or Hoagland for Ohio)

Wednesday, April 18

Ohio University State Government Alumni Luncheon, Athletic Club, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Social: 11:30 am; Luncheon: 12 pm)

Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) & Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) fundraiser, Pins, 141 N. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for Hottinger and/or Friends of Matt Dolan)

Tuesday, April 24

Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Brenner for Ohio)
Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) & Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) fundraiser, Pins, 141 N. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Matt Huffman for Ohio and/or Friends of John Eklund)

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

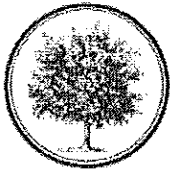
Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 10:52 AM
To: Snider, Grace
Subject: The Buckeye Institute: Ohio's 2018 Capital Budget Riddled with Too Many Special Interest Requests

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March 6, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute: Ohio's 2018 Capital Budget Riddled with Too Many Special Interest Requests

Greg Lawson Testifies Before Ohio Finance Committee on House Bill 529

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified today (see full text below or **download a PDF**) before the Ohio House Finance Committee on House Bill 529, Ohio's 2018 capital budget.

In opening his testimony, Lawson recognized that in many ways Ohio's capital budget adheres to Buckeye's spending principles, which were outlined in *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*. The report "encouraged policymakers to be guided by three spending principles: constrain the growth of government, eliminate corporate and special interest welfare, and focus on strengthening Ohio's physical and democratic infrastructures."

Although policymakers have allocated money to strengthen Ohio's democratic infrastructure in separate legislation, Lawson noted "the capital budget was not then reduced to maintain spending balance-and it should have been."

Of the capital budget overall, Lawson expressed concern "that this budget, like others before, remains riddled with too many special interest requests, local projects, and some potential boondoggles that veer from providing core government services and infrastructure."

In highlighting the special interest projects, Lawson drew special attention to the 10 that made Buckeye's **Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018**, saying, "We highlight more than \$18 million of taxpayer dollars spent on pork projects that benefit only narrow local interests and not broader statewide needs. And that \$18 million is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. All of the special interest projects combined pushes that total to at least \$85 million. That is at least \$85 million of pork that could be spent on more pressing priorities, saved, or returned to taxpayers."

Lawson went on to say, "Ultimately, of course, local residents and local taxpayers should have every opportunity to voluntarily choose to fund amphitheaters, performance stages, parks, zoos, and even stadiums out of their own local resources. But Cleveland residents should not be compelled-through state taxes-to pay for the Columbus Zoo, nor should Youngstown residents be made to pay for a soccer venue in Cincinnati."

###

**Interested Party Testimony on House Bill 529
Before the Ohio House Finance Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
March 6, 2018**

Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Ryan, Ranking Member Cera, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding the Capital Budget.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, a free-market think tank here in Columbus that advocates for low-tax, low-regulation policies that remove barriers to prosperity for Ohioans.

On February 5, The Buckeye Institute released its report, *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*, which outlined ways to keep Ohio's capital budget focused on principled government spending.[1] Our report encouraged policymakers to be guided by three spending principles: constrain the growth of government, eliminate corporate and special interest welfare, and focus on strengthening Ohio's physical and democratic infrastructures.

In many ways, Ohio's \$2.62 billion budget adheres to these basic principles, but we are concerned that this budget, like others before, remains riddled with too many special interest requests, local projects, and some potential boondoggles that veer from providing core government services and infrastructure.

The Buckeye Institute has just released its Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018,[2] in which we highlight more than \$18 million of taxpayer dollars spent on pork projects that benefit only narrow local interests and not broader state-wide needs. And that \$18 million is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. All of the special interest projects combined pushes that total to at least \$85 million. That is at least \$85 million of pork that could be spent on more pressing priorities, saved, or returned to taxpayers.

Regrettably, examples of non-essential government spending abound. The \$5 million to build retail and restaurant-space at COSI in Columbus-not essential government spending. The \$1 million for orangutan and elephant exhibits at the Columbus Zoo-already subsidized by Franklin County property owners-not essential government spending. The \$800,000 to install splash pads around the state-not essential government spending. And the \$4 million slated for a soccer stadium in Cincinnati-not essential government spending and not likely to live up to the economic hype. As the St. Louis Federal Reserve concluded last year:

Consumers who spend money on sporting events would likely spend the money on other forms of entertainment, which has a similar economic impact. Rather than subsidizing sports stadiums, governments could finance other projects such as infrastructure or education that have the potential to increase productivity and promote economic growth.[3]

Ultimately, of course, local residents and local taxpayers should have every opportunity to voluntarily choose to fund amphitheaters, performance stages, parks, zoos, and even stadiums out of their own local resources. But Cleveland residents should not be

compelled-through state taxes-to pay for the Columbus Zoo, nor should Youngstown residents be made to pay for a soccer venue in Cincinnati.

Then there is the \$400,000 appropriation to build several government-owned broadband networks across the state. As I outlined recently in *Broadband "GON" Wrong*,^[4] private-sector players have already deployed billions of dollars developing state-of-the-art technology to nimbly respond to consumer demands and preferences, while these government-owned networks have proven unable to pay for themselves, leaving taxpayers to pay for networks that few consumers even want to use.

That communities are asking for state money in the capital budget indicates that these networks all too frequently fail to live up to the promises made by government officials, and often lead to further taxpayer subsidies to maintain operations.

Many of the other local projects are not inherently misguided, but insofar as they provide only narrow local benefits and do not strengthen Ohio's physical infrastructure, state policymakers should remove them from the capital budget. Those funds should instead be spent on Ohio's pressing needs, such as building and maintaining water and sewer systems, and state roads.

We are also disappointed that this capital budget will not strengthen the state's democratic infrastructure, including, for example, replacing Ohio's aging voting machines. Such funding appears allocated in separate legislation, but the capital budget was not then reduced to maintain spending balance-and it should have been.

Finally, and perhaps most critically, policymakers must remember that a lack of fiscal restraint, even during good economic times, unwittingly creates unrealistic spending expectations over time. Using the capital budget to fund local projects rather than state priorities will only make it harder for policymakers to curb and manage state spending when tough economic times inevitably arrive.

Today, even as the state budget looks solidly in the black, the danger of recession and fiscal instability still lurks. Recall, for instance, how unforeseen challenges required immediate and multiple adjustments to the last biennial budget due to lower than expected revenues. Prudence cautions against the tempting but non-essential government spending included in this capital budget. For the sake of Ohio taxpayers, such temptation must be resisted.

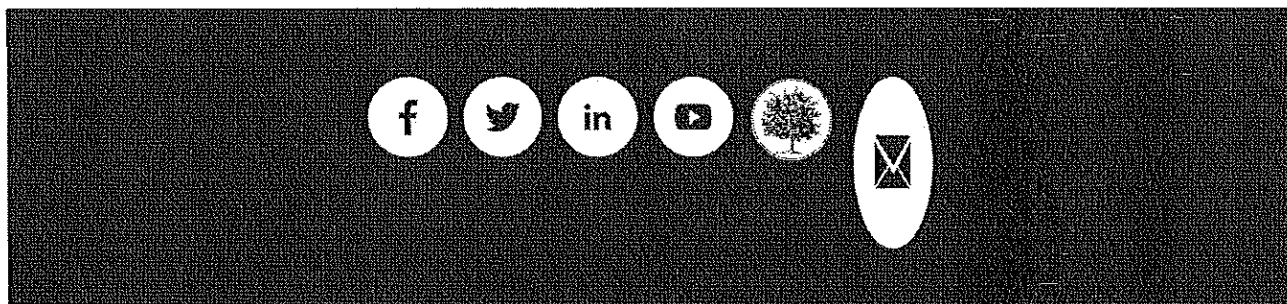
Thank you and I look forward to answering any questions that the Committee may have at this time.

-
- [1] Greg R. Lawson and Quinn Beeson, *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*, The Buckeye Institute, February 5, 2018.
- [2] **More Than \$18 Million Spent on The Buckeye Institute's Top 10 List of Worst Capital Budget Requests**, The Buckeye Institute press release, March 5, 2018.
- [3] Scott A. Wolla, *The Economics of Subsidizing Sports Stadiums*, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, May 2017.
- [4] Greg R. Lawson, *Broadband "GON" Wrong: Remembering Why Government-Owned Broadband Networks are Bad for Taxpayers*, The Buckeye Institute, February 14, 2018.

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Subject: Join HPIO for an online seminar on connections between income and health

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Online seminar Connections between income and health



When

Friday, April 6, 2018 from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM EDT

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Where

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Please register to attend this event. Follow the instructions in your confirmation email to sign up for the webinar using the GoToWebinar website.

More than a century of research has found strong connections between income and health. As a group, people with higher incomes live longer and experience better mental and physical health outcomes. Understanding how income influences health can inform policies, programs and resource allocation to improve both the health and economic wellbeing of Ohioans.

From 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, April 6, the Health Policy Institute of Ohio will host a webinar to share highlights from a recent publication, **Connections between Income and Health**. A panel of experts will discuss current state-level initiatives to improve incomes and employment opportunities for Ohioans.

Speakers include:

- **Michael Evans**, Project Manager, Ohio Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation
- **Greg R. Lawson**, Research Fellow, The Buckeye Institute
- **Zach Reat**, Health Policy Analyst, Health Policy Institute of Ohio

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After you register for the event you will receive an email confirmation with the webinar link and login credentials. You will need to sign up for the webinar using the GoToWebinar website to be able to view the webinar on 4/6/2018. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Alana Clark-Kirk, aclarkkirk@hpio.net.

Sincerely,

Alana Clark-Kirk
Health Policy Institute of Ohio
aclarkkirk@healthpolicyohio.org
614-545-0755

= A

Health Policy Institute of Ohio, 10 W Broad St,
Suite 1150, Columbus, OH 43215

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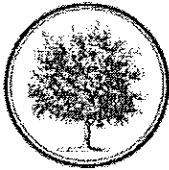


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**The Buckeye Institute: Ohio's Constitution is a
Foundational Document, Not a List of Policy Choices**

*Greg Lawson Testifies Before Ohio House Government
Accountability and Oversight Committee on House Bill 506*

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified today (see full text below or **download a PDF**) before the Ohio House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee on House Bill 506.

In his testimony, Lawson drew attention to a growing problem in Ohio -- special interests pursuing constitutional amendment referendums in order to circumvent the legislature or force the legislature to consider legislation that they might not otherwise take up. In this instance, House Bill 506, which was introduced to head off a referendum governing high volume dog breeders.

Of this practice Lawson said, "Bills like this one [House Bill 506] have lately percolated through the General Assembly as strategic alternatives to political maneuvers orchestrated by well-funded special interests that would otherwise seek to amend the Ohio Constitution and encumber our most fundamental governing document with countless rules and regulations."

Noting that Ohio's Constitution is a "foundational document" Lawson said of this strategy by special interests "The...strategy is clever and remarkably effective, but it must be resisted. The General Assembly must not be muscled by special interest groups threatening unnecessary amendments to the state constitution unless their legislative demands are met. Such threats aim a dagger at the heart of our constitutional form of self-government."

###

**Interested Party Testimony on House Bill 506
Before the Ohio House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
March 7, 2018**

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding House Bill 506 and the Ohio Constitution.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, a free-market think tank here in Columbus that advocates for low-tax, low-regulation policies that remove barriers to prosperity for Ohioans.

House Bill 506 would codify new rules for dog breeders. Fair enough. However, I am not here today to testify about dog breeders or their rules. I am here instead because House Bill 506 is before this Committee as part of a troubling new breed of preemptive legislation, a trend propounded by various special interest groups -- in this case, dog breeders -- designed to force constitutional amendments or preemptive laws that the legislature might not otherwise take up. The sponsor of House Bill 506 acknowledged as much several weeks ago.

Dog breeders and the merits of this particular legislation aside, bills like this one have lately percolated through the General Assembly as strategic alternatives to political maneuvers orchestrated by well-funded special interests that would otherwise seek to amend the Ohio Constitution and encumber our most fundamental governing document with countless rules and regulations. Thus, in this instance, House Bill 506 comes before the Committee so that Ohio's Constitution will not include an amendment for dog breeders.

The special interests' strategy is clever and remarkably effective, but it must be resisted. The General Assembly must not be muscled by special interest groups threatening unnecessary amendments to the state constitution unless their legislative demands are met. Such threats aim a dagger at the heart of our constitutional form of self-government.

The special interests argue that their strong-arm tactics -- such as paying constituents for their signatures to put constitutional amendments on the ballot -- are necessary in order to compel the General Assembly to act in the interest of the people. The asserted ends sound laudable, but the means are not.

First, beneath the altruistic rhetoric claiming to defend the "will of the people" lies the more self-serving purpose of simply bending the law -- by preemptive statute like House Bill 506 or constitutional amendment, they do not care which -- to protect their own special interest.

Second, as the cornerstone of our self-rule, the Ohio Constitution frames the very structure of our state government, and that structure will not stand under the constant pressures of change and amendment. Constitutional amendments therefore ought to be rare events and taken up only for the most significant purposes, not as a more permanent alternative to the Revised or Administrative codes. The state constitution is a foundational document, not a list of policy choices or a rule book for dog breeders.

If, as the special interests claim, the General Assembly fails to accomplish or defend the will of the people, our political system provides a remedy to hold the assembly accountable -- elections. One hardly need remind this Committee that legislators who do not listen to their constituents and who do not pursue policies and legislation consistent with their constituents' concerns can and should be voted from office. Thus, statutes and elections are and ought to be the people's recourse -- not the bombastic threats of constitutional amendments or else.

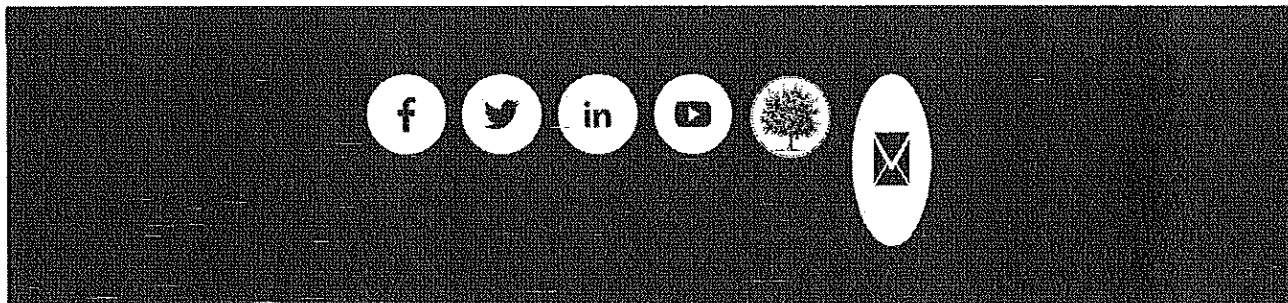
Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee might have at this time.

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From: Finlay, Serena
Sent: Thursday, March 8, 2018 1:57 PM
To: Paretti, Dominic
Subject: Deadline Tomorrow: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

REMINDER-DEADLINE TO CO SPONSOR IS TOMORROW AT 4PM



MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Janine Boyd and Representative Kristin Boggs
DATE: February 5, 2018
RE: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

We will soon introduce legislation to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Today we chose to send this co-sponsor request as this date marks the 25th anniversary of FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). This legislation will provide 12 weeks of family and medical leave benefits, which will permit individuals to care for a family member, bond with a new child, or address their own serious health condition.

Out of 178 countries worldwide, the United States is one of three that does not provide paid leave to new mothers. So far five states—California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island offer some sort of paid leave to men and women who provide care. The federal Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons. This time is unpaid and employers with fewer than 50 employees are exempt, which eliminates a large segment of workers. Ohio should lead on the issue of paid leave to grow our economy and allow working people to put family first.

The program will be under the purview of the Department of Job and Family Services. An individual would receive leave insurance benefits for: a health condition which makes him/her unable to perform their job duties; caring for a new child during after birth, adoption, or foster care placement; caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition; or the individual is taking any other leave as authorized by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. In order to be eligible for program benefits, an individual must file a claim with ODJFS; must have worked at least 680 hours during the base period; premiums have been withheld and remitted for at least one year; and the leave must be for the above-mentioned purposes.

Once established, program benefits will be paid by assessing premiums on employees. Employers will be required to deduct and withhold premiums from employee's wages. However, an employer may opt to pay the contributions on behalf of employees.

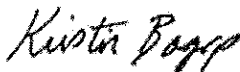
An employee who is covered by an employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that provides the employee with greater leave than that provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act may elect not to participate in the Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director. An employee who elects to opt out of participating in the Program is not liable for any premium or contribution that would otherwise be due under the Program.

Working people in Ohio should not have to worry about losing their job or falling behind financially just to take care of a sick child or relative; address their own serious health condition; or care for and bond with their newborn child. Ohio cities like Dayton and Cincinnati are leading on leave. By allowing working people to put their family first, we can truly make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Dominic Paretti, at 614-644-5079 or via email at Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov and Serena Finlay, 614-466-1896 or via email at Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Friday, March 9 at 4:00pm.**



Janine Boyd
State Representative, Ohio House District 09

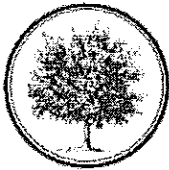


Kristin Boggs
State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Friday, March 9, 2018 1:20 PM
To: Snider, Grace
Subject: The Buckeye Institute: Ohio's Employment Rate Springs Ahead, While Unemployment Still Above National Average

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March 9, 2018

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The Buckeye Institute: Ohio's Employment Rate Springs Ahead, While Unemployment Still Above National Average

Columbus, OH -- Andrew J. Kidd, Ph.D., an economist at the **Economic Research Center (ERC)** at **The Buckeye Institute**; and Rea S. Hederman Jr., executive director of the ERC and vice president of policy at Buckeye, commented on newly released employment data from the **Ohio Department of Job and Family Services**.

"Ohio's unemployment rate declined from 4.9 percent in December to 4.7 percent in January, continuing a positive economic path for Ohio's labor market. However, Ohio's unemployment rate still remains well above the national average of 4.1 percent, indicating there are still obstacles that policymakers need to address to make Ohio a national leader.

"Also concerning is that Ohio's unemployment rate declined due partially to fewer Ohioans being in the job market as labor force participation dipped below the national average. This signifies some job seekers may have become discouraged and stopped searching for employment.

"Ohio experienced an 8,900 increase in non-farm private employment in January 2018, nearly five times the growth from December 2017 and accounting for more than a third of the number of new jobs since January 2017. Although this is only one month with such large gains, this is an indication that Ohio's labor market is strengthening and expanding.

"Much of this job growth was in construction, which saw an increase of 2,600 jobs. This bodes well for the industry, which had seen declines in the latter part of 2017, and could be indicative of further development and economic growth. Mining and logging also continued to rebound after years of struggle, growing by 5.5 percent in 2017.

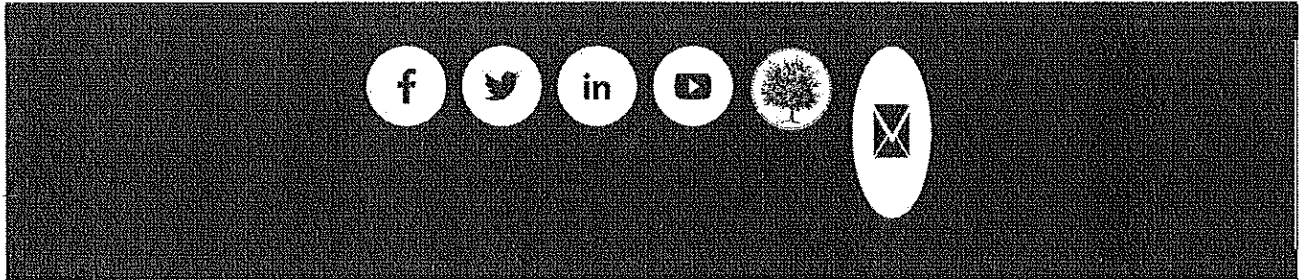
= A"Overall, Ohio's labor market continues to trend in the right direction but discouraged workers and decreases in lower-skilled jobs such as manufacturing (-1,400), and leisure and hospitality (-1,700), show there needs to be fewer barriers that prevent people who are seeking to improve their skills through training and licensing from attaining the jobs they desire."

###

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From: Rep93
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 1:21 PM
To: Snider, Grace
Subject: FW: School Based Health Care Call Follow Up Survey

From: Melissa Cropper [mailto:mcropper@oft-aft.org]
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2018 4:13 PM
To: Hatton, Theresa <Theresa.Hatton@governor.ohio.gov>
Cc: rgraham@lcghd.org; hamilton@basa-ohio.org;
Daniel.Troy@lakecountyohio.gov; darlene.kamine@clcinstitute.org;
jdirossi@ohiohc.org; mmotter@oahp.org; president@oasn.org;
rnich99@yahoo.com; klake@ohiochamber.com; murrayMD@live.com;
skincaid@ohiochildrenshospitals.org; Sims, Reina <Reina.Sims@mih.ohio.gov>;
Keith.Hochadel@CommQuest.org; david@oda.org; kkerns@ooa.org;
barbvarley@gmail.com; TBaker@osma.org; Angela@pcsao.org;
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rally@hpio.net; MaryKay.Irwin@nationwidechildrens.org; tcoder@oacbha.org;
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rdickman@ohioaap.org; nathan@oda.org; Himes, Lance
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aly.deangelo@ohiohospitals.org; jwills@ooanet.org;
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Tracy <Tracy.Plouck@mha.ohio.gov>; Moody, Greg
<Greg.Moody@governor.ohio.gov>; Juenger, Monica
<Monica.Juenger@governor.ohio.gov>; Wickham, Sarah
<sarah.wickham@education.ohio.gov>; matt_karlan@mckinsey.com
Subject: Re: School Based Health Care Call Follow Up Survey

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 28, 2018, at 5:02 PM, Hatton, Theresa <Theresa.Hatton@governor.ohio.gov> wrote:

Thank you for joining the School Based Health Care work group call today. Based on our conversation, we updated the discussion document, attached. Please use this version to submit additional feedback via the survey tool linked below (completing all questions should take ~5 minutes, but you do not need to answer all questions to submit). **Please submit your responses by Friday, March 2.**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SchoolHealthcareReadinessFeedback>

For those interested in seeing the full list of schools currently in the improvement plan process, please see the following link (the school improvement planning process includes priority schools, focus schools and watch schools):

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/District-and-School-Continuous-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Elementary-and-Secondary-Education-Act/ESEA-Support-Schools-and-Districts>

Thank you for your continued support.

Theresa Hatton
Office of Health Transformation
theresa.hatton@governor.ohio.gov
614-752-2784

From: Hatton, Theresa
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 9:19 AM
Subject: RE: REMINDER: School Based Health Care Call Tomorrow 11am

Please find attached today's document.

School Based Health Care Call
Wednesday, February 28, 2018
10:00am – 11:00am

Webex:

<https://mckinsey.webex.com/mckinsey/j.php?MTID=mff96a099ccff1fed7f616649ff060871>

Meeting number:

Meeting password:

Dial in:

From: Hatton, Theresa

Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 4:07 PM

Subject: REMINDER: School Based Health Care Call Tomorrow 11am

As a reminder, our second conference call and WebEx for the School Based Health Care work group will be tomorrow, February 28 at 10:00am.

Meeting details are listed below. We will share a copy of the discussion document in the morning. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

School Based Health Care Call

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

10:00am – 11:00am

Webex:

<https://mckinsey.webex.com/mckinsey/j.php?MTID=mff96a099ccff1fed7f616649ff060871>

Meeting number:

Meeting password:

Dial in:

Theresa Hatton

Office of Health Transformation

theresa.hatton@governor.ohio.gov

614-752-2784

<UPDATED 20180228 SBHC conference call #2.pdf>

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 4:18 PM
To: Snider, Grace
Subject: The Buckeye Institute: Capital Budget Riddled with Pork Projects that Benefit Only Narrow Local Interests

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice-President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

**The Buckeye Institute: Capital Budget Riddled with
Pork Projects that Benefit Only Narrow Local Interests**
Greg Lawson Testifies Before Ohio Senate Committee on House Bill 529

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified today (see full text below or **download a PDF**) before the Ohio Senate Finance Committee on House Bill 529, Ohio's 2018 capital budget.

As he did in his testimony before the Ohio House Finance Committee, Lawson recognized that in many ways the 2018 capital budget adheres to the spending principles outlined in *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*. However, he went on to say, "We are concerned that this budget, like others before, remains riddled with too many special interest requests, local projects, and some potential boondoggles that veer from providing core government services and infrastructure."

In highlighting the special interest projects, Lawson again drew special attention to the 10 that made Buckeye's **Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018**, saying, "We highlight more than \$18 million of taxpayer dollars spent on pork projects that benefit only narrow local interests and not broader statewide needs. And that \$18 million is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. All of the special interest projects combined pushes that total to at least \$85 million. That is at least \$85 million of pork that could be spent on more pressing priorities, saved, or returned to taxpayers."

###

**Interested Party Testimony on House Bill 529
Before the Ohio Senate Finance Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
March 13, 2018**

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Skindell, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding the Capital Budget.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, an independent research and educational institution -- a think tank -- whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

On February 5, The Buckeye Institute released its report, *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*, which outlined ways to keep Ohio's capital budget focused on principled government spending.[1] Our report encouraged policymakers to be guided by three spending principles: constrain the growth of government, eliminate corporate and special interest welfare, and focus on strengthening Ohio's physical and democratic infrastructures.

In many ways, Ohio's \$2.62 billion budget adheres to these basic principles, but we are concerned that this budget, like others before, remains riddled with too many special interest requests, local projects, and some potential boondoggles that veer from providing core government services and infrastructure.

The Buckeye Institute has just released its **Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018**,[2] in which we highlight more than \$18 million of taxpayer dollars spent on pork projects that benefit only narrow local interests and not broader state-wide needs. And that

\$18 million is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. All of the special interest projects combined pushes that total to at least \$85 million. That is at least \$85 million of pork that could be spent on more pressing priorities, saved, or returned to taxpayers.

Regrettably, examples of non-essential government spending abound. The \$5 million to build retail and restaurant space at COSI in Columbus -- not essential government spending. The \$1 million for orangutan and elephant exhibits at the Columbus Zoo -- already subsidized by Franklin County property owners -- not essential government spending. The \$800,000 to install splash pads around the state -- not essential government spending. And the \$4 million slated for a soccer stadium in Cincinnati -- not essential government spending and not likely to live up to the economic hype. As the St. Louis Federal Reserve concluded last year:

Consumers who spend money on sporting events would likely spend the money on other forms of entertainment, which has a similar economic impact. Rather than subsidizing sports stadiums, governments could finance other projects such as infrastructure or education that have the potential to increase productivity and promote economic growth.[3]

Ultimately, of course, local residents and local taxpayers should have every opportunity to voluntarily choose to fund amphitheaters, performance stages, parks, zoos, and even stadiums out of their own local resources. But Cleveland residents should not be compelled -- through state taxes -- to pay for the Columbus Zoo, nor should Youngstown residents be made to pay for a soccer venue in Cincinnati.

Then there is the \$400,000 appropriation to build several government-owned broadband networks across the state. As I outlined recently in *Broadband "GON" Wrong*,[4] private-sector players have already deployed billions of dollars developing state-of-the-art technology to nimbly respond to consumer demands and preferences, while these government-owned networks have proven unable to pay for themselves, leaving taxpayers to pay for networks that few consumers even want to use.

That communities are asking for state money in the capital budget indicates that these networks all too frequently fail to live up to the promises made by government officials, and often lead to further taxpayer subsidies to maintain operations.

Many of the other local projects are not inherently misguided, but insofar as they provide only narrow local benefits and do not strengthen Ohio's physical infrastructure, state policymakers should remove them from the capital budget. Those funds should instead be

spent on Ohio's pressing needs, such as building and maintaining water and sewer systems, and state roads.

We are also disappointed that this capital budget will not strengthen the state's democratic infrastructure, including, for example, replacing Ohio's aging voting machines. Such funding appears allocated in separate legislation, but the capital budget was not then reduced to maintain spending balance -- and it should have been.

Finally, and perhaps most critically, policymakers must remember that a lack of fiscal restraint, even during good economic times, unwittingly creates unrealistic spending expectations over time. Using the capital budget to fund local projects rather than state priorities will only make it harder for policymakers to curb and manage state spending when tough economic times inevitably arrive.

Today, even as the state budget looks solidly in the black, the danger of recession and fiscal instability still lurks. Recall, for instance, how unforeseen challenges required immediate and multiple adjustments to the last biennial budget due to lower than expected revenues. Prudence cautions against the tempting but non-essential government spending included in this capital budget. For the sake of Ohio taxpayers, such temptation must be resisted.

Thank you and I look forward to answering any questions that the Committee may have at this time.

[1] Greg R. Lawson and Quinn Beeson, *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*, The Buckeye Institute, February 5, 2018.

[2] *More Than \$18 Million Spent on The Buckeye Institute's Top 10 List of Worst Capital Budget Requests*, The Buckeye Institute press release, March 5, 2018.

[3] Scott A. Wolla, *The Economics of Subsidizing Sports Stadiums*, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, May 2017.

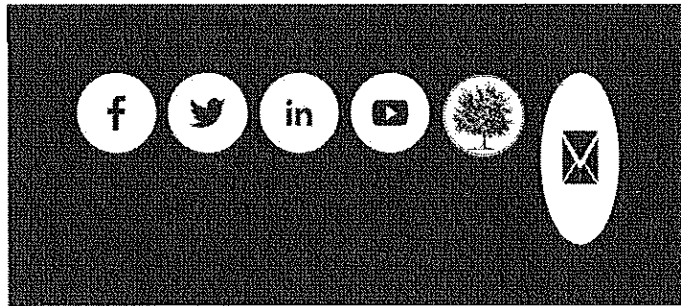
[4] Greg R. Lawson, *Broadband "GON" Wrong: Remembering Why Government-Owned Broadband Networks are Bad for Taxpayers*, The Buckeye Institute, February 14, 2018.

###

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from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



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From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 10:19 AM

To: Snider, Grace

Subject: The Buckeye Institute: "Sue and Settle" Circumvents Constitutional Role of the Peoples' Elected Representatives to Make Policy

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March 14, 2018

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The Buckeye Institute: "Sue and Settle" Circumvents Constitutional Role of the Peoples' Elected Representatives to Make Policy

Greg Lawson Testifies Before Ohio House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee on House Bill 301

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified today (see full text below or **download a PDF**) before the Ohio House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee on House Bill 301.

In opening his testimony, Lawson noted that the practice of "sue and settle" is a "pernicious but all-too-common practice" that "circumvent[s] the constitutional prerogative of the General Assembly to make policy."

Lawson urged the General Assembly to end this practice and reassert its rightful policy role by "requiring the [General] Assembly's approval for any consent decree or court-approved settlement to which the state is a party that modifies or prevents a statute's implementation.

#

**Interested Party Testimony on House Bill 301
Before the Ohio House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
March 14, 2018**

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding House Bill 301.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, an independent research and educational institution -- a think tank -- whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

House Bill 301 takes a significant stride toward correcting the pernicious but all-too-common practice known as "sue and settle." Special interests pursue a "sue and settle" scheme by filing a lawsuit against the state challenging state laws, regulations, or policies in the hope of reaching a favorable court-ordered settlement that effectively frustrate the state's policy objective.

Ultimately, of course, "sue and settle" lawsuits circumvent the constitutional prerogative of the General Assembly to make policy.

The troubling "sue and settle" strategy has become so widespread at the state and federal levels that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has called such special interest lawsuits what they really are: "regulating behind closed doors." [1]

Indeed, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has acknowledged the problem of backroom "regulation through litigation," and has recently amended the process by which the EPA will agree to consent decrees. [2]

The Buckeye Institute is pleased that Ohio appears ready to take similar, reasonable steps with Representative Butler's House Bill 301 to curb backroom settlements that often muddy regulatory waters that should be clear and transparent.

In our view, House Bill 301 reasserts the General Assembly's rightful policy role by requiring the Assembly's approval for any consent decree or court-approved settlement to which the state is a party that modifies or prevents a statute's implementation. With such a requirement, House Bill 301 will return power to Ohio's electorate by restoring transparency to a legislative and regulatory process that has been strategically hijacked by special interests and their lawyers.

We applaud this effort as sound regulatory policy, and we encourage the General Assembly to end the unsettling practice of "sue and settle" litigation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee may have at this time.

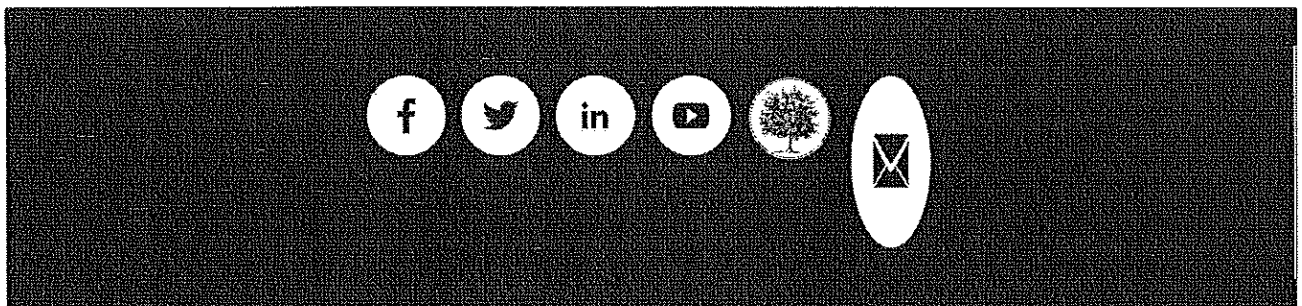
[1] U.S. Chamber of Commerce, **Sue and Settle: Regulating Behind Closed Doors**, March 6, 2018.

[2] Administrator Pruitt Issues Directive to End EPA "Sue & Settle" United States Environmental Protection Agency press release, October 16, 2017.

###

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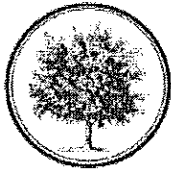
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**The Buckeye Institute: Sales Tax Holidays are
More Gimmick, Less Reform**

*Greg Lawson Submits Testimony to the Ohio House Ways
and Means Committee on Senate Bill 226*

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson submitted written testimony today (see full text below or [download a PDF](#)) to the Ohio House Ways and Means Committee on Senate Bill 226.

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In opening his testimony, Lawson outlined the downsides of special interest tax deductions, which narrow the tax base, raise taxes, and offer preferential treatment to special interests.

Pointing to a **report by the non-partisan Tax Foundation**, Lawson went on to say of sales tax holidays, they "represent more of a gimmick than fundamental reform."

Lawson also noted that the Tax Foundation report questioned how much of a savings sales tax holidays offered consumers, highlighting that retailers may raise prices to capture a portion of the tax savings. "This practice alone would suggest that consumers would benefit more from a flatter tax without special exemptions rather than a one-time-a-year sales tax break."

After the bill passed out of committee Lawson said, "Though the legislation did clear the committee and seems poised for passage, it remains critical to examine all such tax expenditures to avoid reducing the overall competitiveness of our full tax code."

###

**Interested Party Testimony on Senate Bill 226
to the Ohio House Ways and Means Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
March 14, 2018**

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding Senate Bill 226 and Ohio's tax policy.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute, an independent research and educational institution -- a think tank -- whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

According to the Ohio Department of Taxation, a tax expenditure is any tax policy that has the following four characteristics:[1]

- The item reduces, or has the potential to reduce, one of the state's General Revenue Fund taxes;
- The item would have been part of the defined base;
- The item is not subject to an alternative tax; and
- The item is subject to change by state legislative action.

The Buckeye Institute has long opposed most tax expenditures, including credits and exemptions, because of their adverse impacts on taxpayers and the level playing field on which a free market depends.

As exceptions to the tax code, tax expenditures effectively narrow the tax base. The narrower the tax base the higher and more confiscatory taxes become for those still subject to the tax. Thus, tax expenditures, however unintentionally or well-intended, eventually pick economic winners and losers through their preferential treatment under the law.

Flatter taxes, by contrast, levied on broader bases and without special exemptions, lower the tax burden and spread the cost of the tax more evenly and fairly among taxpayers.

Sales tax holidays, in particular, represent more of a gimmick than fundamental reform. As the non-partisan Tax Foundation points out, rather than moving Ohio to a flatter tax, sales tax holidays introduce complexity and instability to sales tax collections.[2]

Additionally, there is uncertainty as to how large of a savings sales tax holidays offer the consumer with some research showing that retailers may raise prices to capture a portion of the tax savings that are anticipated by consumers.[3] This practice alone would suggest that consumers would benefit more from a flatter tax without special exemptions rather than a one-time-a-year sales tax break.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit written testimony to the Committee.

[1] State of Ohio, **Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Tax Expenditure Report**, Office of Budget and Management, November 25, 2016.

[2] Joseph Bishop-Henchman and Scott Drenkard, *Sales Tax Holidays: Politically Expedient but Poor Tax Policy, 2017*, Tax Foundation, July 25, 2017.

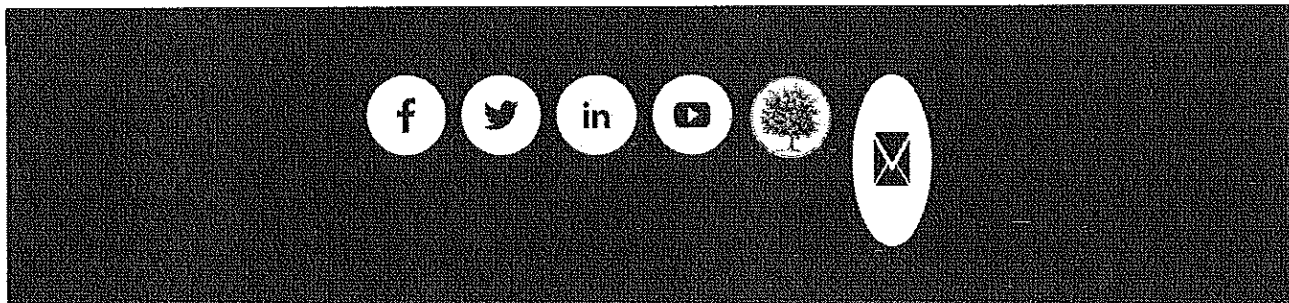
[3] *Ibid.*

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From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 7:03 AM
To: Snider, Grace
Subject: REMINDER: AEI President Arthur Brooks to Address The Buckeye Institute Luncheon March 21

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Friends,

You may have seen our invitation for this event previously. If so, consider this to be a reminder. If not, consider yourself formally invited, and see the details below. We'd love to have you with us.

Update: We added another table to the room for our luncheon with **Arthur Brooks** on Wednesday at noon, but once that last table is full -- as predicted -- the event will be sold out. Also, another and probably more intriguing piece of breaking news: This may be your last chance to hear Arthur Brooks in his role as AEI President. See his announcement in *The Wall Street Journal* of passing the torch next year **here**.

Please do register to attend if you would like to occupy one of those additional seats and take advantage of this special opportunity to hear from him firsthand.

You are cordially invited to join us for an extraordinary luncheon talk featuring American Enterprise Institute (AEI) President Arthur Brooks on Wednesday, March 21, at noon.

This is one event that you don't want to miss, so **register soon**. Further details are available by following the registration link.

We hope to see you Wednesday!

Sincerely,
The Buckeye Institute team

Register to Attend

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

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From: Fiore, Anthonio
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 7:03 PM
To: Fiore, Anthonio
CC: Elizabeth Murch
Subject: Urging Your Support for Sub. HB 189 Before the Spring Recess
Attachments: Eric_Bakken_Regis Corporation_Sub_HB_189_Letter_Of_Support_Signed.pdf; 2018_0316 OSA Ltr to All Ohio House Members Urging Support for Sub HB 189 - FINAL.pdf

Dear Ohio House members,

We are writing to ask for your **support** and **expeditious passage** of the **occupational licensure reforms** to Ohio's cosmetology industry contained in **Sub.HB 189** before the Spring recess. The announcement this week of more private cosmetology schools closing makes it more important than ever to pass the reforms contained in **Sub. HB 189**. **Six additional school closures** were announced bringing the total number to **28 closures since May 2015** (or around 30%). In addition, we have included a few items raised by opponents that we are willing to work on in the Senate if the bill is favorably passed off the House floor.

I've also attached a list of all public testimony on **HB 189**. In addition the **letters of support from smaller salon owners** around the state, we just received the attached letter of support from Regis Corp that has over 30 brands under its umbrella with hundreds of locations across all 88 counties.

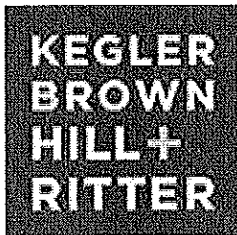
Have a great weekend. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Tony

Anthonio C. Fiore
Of Counsel

65 East State Street | Suite 1800 | Columbus, OH 43215
direct (614) 462-5428 | mobile (614) 906-8669 | fax (614) 464-2634



afiore@keglerbrown.com

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5th Hearing – March 7, 2018

Bill	Status	Amendments	Fiscal Notes	Analysis
H. B. No. 189	5th Hearing	—	Download	Download
Witness		Organization	Stance	Document
Wezlynn Davis		null	Opponent	Download
Patrick Thompson		null	Opponent	Download
Don Boyd		Ohio Chamber of Commerce	Proponent	Download
Sue Carter Moore		Ohio Association of Cosmetology Schools	Opponent	Download
Nancy Brown		Brown Aveda Institute	Opponent	Download
Brandon Ogden		null	Proponent	Download
Natalie Lockhart		JCPenney Salon	Proponent	Download

4th Hearing – February 27, 2018

Bill	Status	Amendments	Fiscal Notes	Analysis
H. B. No. 189	4th Hearing	132_1073-3	Download	Download
Witness		Organization	Stance	Document
Lisa Nelson	null		Proponent	Download
Ohio Salon Association	null		Proponent	Download
Don Boyd	null		Proponent	Download
Clara Ostermayer	null		Proponent	Download
Chris Ferriso	NFIB		Proponent	Download

3rd Hearing – June 21, 2017

Bill	Status	Amendments	Fiscal Notes	Analysis
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H. B. No. 189		3rd Hearing	Download	Download
Witness		Organization	Stance	Document
Greg Lawson		The Buckeye Institute	Interested Party	Download
Michael Shuh	null	Proponent	Download	
Mantama Yeager	null	Proponent	Download	
Dana Pallares	null	Proponent	Download	
Bridget Sharpe	Professional Beauty Association	Proponent	Download	
Myra Reddy	Future of Beauty Industry Coalition	Proponent	Download	
NeCole Cumberlander	null	Proponent	Download	
Rodwena Yeager	null	Proponent	Download	
Beth Hickey	null	Proponent	Download	
David Boucher-Additional	null	Proponent	Download	
David Boucher	null	Proponent	Download	
Rachelle King	null	Proponent	Download	
Kerry Sawyer	null	Proponent	Download	
Nancy Brown		null	Opponent	Download
Wezlynn VanDyke Davis		null	Opponent	Download
Patrick Thompson		null	Opponent	Download
Angela Harvey		null	Opponent	Download
Jill Hawkins Mitchell		null	Opponent	Download
Gerry Reis		null	Opponent	Download
Will Molden		null	Opponent	Download
Chris Ferruso	NFIB	Proponent	Download	

2nd Hearing – May 23, 2017

Bill	Status	Amendments	Fiscal Notes	Analysis
H. B. No. 189	2nd Hearing	Download	Download	
Witness		Organization	Stance	Document
Tony Fiore	Ohio Salon Association	Proponent	Download	
Clara Osterhage	null	Proponent	Download	
Charles Penzone	The Charles Penzone Salons	Proponent	Download	
Frank Gambuzza	null	Proponent	Download	
Lori Yeager	SponClips	Proponent	Download	
Debra Tillery	null	Proponent	Download	

Stefan Eckert	Great Clips	Proponent	Download
Bridget Sharpe	Professional Beauty Association	Proponent	Download
Frank Schoeneman	Empire Education Group	Proponent	Download
Tom Quick and Lisa Groome	Roosters Men's Grooming Center	Proponent	Download
Lasha Shelpine	null	Proponent	Download
Gordon Logan	Sports Clips	Proponent	Download
Dub Nelson	Roosters Men's Grooming Centers	Proponent	Download

1st Hearing – May 17, 2017

Bill	Status	Amendments	Fiscal Notes	Analysis
H. B. No. 189	1st Hearing	—	Download	Download
Witness	Organization		Stance	Document
Rep Roegner	null		Proponent	Download
Rep Reece	null		Proponent	Download

REGIS CORPORATION
7201 Metro Boulevard | Minneapolis, MN 55439 | 952-947-7777

March 15, 2018

To: All Ohio House of Representatives

From: Eric Bakken
EVP, President—Franchise

RE: Urging your support for Sub. HB 189

My name is Eric Bakken, and I serve as the Executive Vice President and President—Franchise for Regis Corporation. I'm writing to urge your support for Sub. HB 189.

Regis Corporation is a leader in beauty salons and cosmetology education. As of December 31, 2017, the we owned, operated, franchised or held ownership interests in over 8,800 locations worldwide. We also maintain an ownership interest in Empire Education Group in the U.S. Regis owns or franchises 386 salon locations in Ohio, amounting to over 2,000 stylists and managers in the state. We operate under several brands in all 88 counties throughout Ohio, including: Best Cuts, Borics Hair Care, Famous Hair, Fiesta Salons, First Choice Haircutters, Haircrafters, Mastercuts, Regis Salons, Roosters, Saturdays, SmartStyle, and Supercuts.

At Regis, we are deeply committed to providing our customers with the safest and highest quality experience in our salons. To achieve this, we ensure our stylists and managers are properly educated and licensed in accordance with state regulations. We also offer our team members continued education and training to refine their skills, keep on trend and to stay in tune with the latest sanitary protocols. However, our industry has become increasingly competitive, most of which is attributable to a shortage in skilled labor. That's why for over four years, Regis has supported a group called the Future of the Beauty Industry Coalition (FBIC) whose main purpose is to provide reasonable reforms to state cosmetology law using research and analytics from all 50 states.

The FBIC consists of cosmetologists, students, salon owners, manufacturers, distributors, and cosmetology schools. The FBIC values our industry's appreciation of safety and quality, and therefore has proposed Sub. HB 189 which modifies the existing law and reduces the Ohio license minimum hour requirements from 1,500 to 1,000, as opposed to a complete deregulation of the industry. In addition, Sub. HB 189 lays the groundwork for model occupational licensing reform legislation for the cosmetology industry in all 50 states and helps to eliminate a barrier of entry into our industry.

The minimum 1,500 hours state licensing requirement serves as a barrier of entry into the beauty industry. In addition, Ohio's reciprocity law requires a licensee to sit for an Ohio exam even though they may have passed another state's licensing exam a month or so before. This doesn't help our stylist be mobile in deciding where to work and live, especially near Ohio's boarding counties. Sub. HB 189 reduces the hours to 1,000 hours for a full cosmetology license and helps out of state licensees come to Ohio to work and raise a family.

For these reasons, I am writing on behalf of Regis Corporation in support of the Ohio Salon Association's proposed comprehensive reform package to Ohio's cosmetology laws contained in Sub. HB 189 (and the

REGIS CORPORATION
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companion bill in the Ohio Senate, SB 129). This reform is a positive step for our industry, and I respectfully request this committee's support on the work being done here.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to submit this letter in support of Sub. HB 189.



Eric Bakken
EVP, President—Franchise
Regis Corporation



OSA

OHIO SALON ASSOCIATION

March 16, 2018

Dear Representative:

We are writing to ask for your **support** and **expeditious passage** of the **occupational licensure reforms** to Ohio's cosmetology industry contained in **Sub. HB 189** next Wednesday, March 21, 2018. The announcement this week of more private cosmetology schools closing makes it more important than ever to pass the reforms contained in **Sub. HB 189**. Six additional school closures were announced bringing the total number to 28 closures since May 2015 (around 30%). In addition, we have included a few items raised by opponents that we are willing to work on in the Senate if the bill is favorably passed off the House floor.

Sub. HB 189 will:

1) Support Ohio's Attainment Goal 2025, that includes:

- a) **helping more Ohioans compete for quality jobs** that pay a family-sustaining wage and lead to career advancement;
- b) **removing barriers to education and employment** for individuals;
- c) **helping Ohio employers find the talent** they need to succeed and grow;
- d) **providing effective and efficient job training aligned to in-demand occupations** and employer needs resulting in **workplace-valued credentials**; and
- e) **assisting in achieving the attainment goal** of the Governor's Executive Workforce Board, Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Department of Higher Education to have 65% of Ohioans ages 25 to 65 achieve a credential/license or degree by 2025. (Ohioans are currently at 43% of that attainment goal.)

2) Lower hours to reduce the barrier for women, men and minorities to enter the beauty industry. The bill:

- a) supports the notion that government should only mandate the minimum number of hours necessary to ensure safe and sanitary cosmetology practices as a barrier to entry into the profession – **1,000 hours is the correct requirement** – though some believe this is still too many hours;
- b) equalizes the government mandated hours between public and private schools. Public schools in Ohio **are already teaching at 1,000 hours** and producing graduates who are entering the workforce with similar graduation rates, licensure rates and earning potential;
- c) maintains high training standards without mandating an additional 500 hours on private school students. A national study as well as salon owners indicate that **more time in school does not make the student more job ready**;
- d) acknowledges that there are **currently more public students entering the profession at 1,000 hours** of training rather than private schools at 1,500 hours;
- e) ensures private schools are still able to obtain federal funding for students at 1,000 hours, can require 500 additional hours and charge whatever they want for tuition – the question is whether students will be willing to pay for and attend such programs – the free market will decide; and,
- f) creates an **apprenticeship option** for future cosmetology students to earn a wage while they learn about the beauty industry. Under today's 1,500-hour program students are forced to pay tuition and provide services to the public in school clinics without compensation for hundreds of hours.

3) Stop Ohio law from unfairly requiring private cosmetology education mandating 1,500 hours at the expense of students when public schools already teach at 1,000 hours. There is no risk to public safety if a cosmetologist attending a private school achieves 1,000 hours for a license just like the public school student does today. In Ohio today:

- Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) attend 150 hours of training.
- Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) attend 1376 hours of training.
- Police officers attend 695 hours of training.
- Paramedics attend 800 hours of training.

4) Make Ohio a "RECIPROCITY-IN" state—our focus must be on job opportunities in Ohio. Many states do not require licensees to take any additional education or even an exam when seeking reciprocity after one to two years of practicing as was indicated by a recent LSC review. The bill:

- a) removes the requirement of taking exams in Ohio if already licensed in another state;
- b) removes the requirement that the standards in Ohio for obtaining the license the applicant seeks are substantially equal to the other state or country's requirements;
- c) allows licensees to enter the workforce sooner with less debt;
- d) permits work experience/hours to count towards licensing hours when seeking to transfer a license to another state;
- e) requires the Ohio Board to use a national exam which makes our licensees more marketable in other states; and,
- f) maintains high standards, but makes it easier to practice in Ohio than in most states.

Although private school opponents have refused to attend interested party meetings we have addressed several issues raised by them and have highlighted the changes below. These changes are in Sub. HB 189. The substitute bill:

- a) permits pre-graduate testing to help increase licensure rates;
- b) returns manicuring hours from 100 to 200;
- c) returns esthetics hours from 300 to 600;
- d) removes the 5-year experience requirement for instructors;
- e) removes the language increasing the surety bond from \$10,000 to \$100,000 for schools; and,
- f) requires salons and schools of cosmetology to work in partnership to establish the apprenticeship program.

As mentioned above, the OSA has been trying to address as many of the opponents concerns as possible throughout this legislative process. We are committed to working on the following issues raised by the opponents in the Senate if Sub. HB 189 passes out of the House:

Opponents concern: *Getting rid of the advanced license is deregulating our profession.*

- **OSA Response:** The advanced license doesn't provide students with marketable skills that garner a higher wage and is not recognized in other states. Since it was created a few years ago schools did not adapt and work to provide input on curriculum to make it valuable. Schools can still offer 1,500 hours' worth of classes or any other advanced classes they wish. There is no law preventing them from offering classes that exceed the minimum. And funding is available for up to 1,500 hours so they can get paid. The state should only legislate minimums for occupational licenses that are barriers to entry into a profession. In reality private schools combine the initial license at 1,500 hours and the advanced license at 300 hours and require students to attend and pay for an 1,800-hour program. This cannot be the case in the future.
- **OSA Compromise:** The OSA will support changing Sub. HB 189 in the Senate to preserve the Advance License for those licensees as of the effective date of the bill, so those individuals can indefinitely renew this license. This still provides any school the opportunity to create an Advanced

Certificate program, but such a program will not carry with it state mandated hours. Schools are free to provide cosmetology programs above the 1,000-hour requirement under Sub. HB 189 – the question is whether students will pay for the additional training and education – the free market will decide.

Opponents concern: *Natural Hair Styling license is valuable and should stay. It negatively affects ethnic populations to get rid of it including salon owners.*

- **OSA Response:** The first time OSA heard opposition to removing the Natural Hair Stylist license came on Wednesday, March 7th in the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee hearing on Sub. HB 189.
- This license is not widely utilized—and it is quite burdensome at 450 hours of education to sit for the licensing exam. For instance, based on the Board's 2017 Annual Report there were 5 active and one new individuals with a natural hair stylist license, one active and one new individuals had a natural hair stylist instructor license, 34 active and 45 new individuals had an advanced natural hair stylist license, and there were 14 active and 4 newly licensed natural hair stylist salons. Compare this to 17,639 active and 2,708 new cosmetology licensees for the same period.
- **OSA compromise:** With that said, so long as the braiding registration stays in the law, we would compromise to allow the natural hair stylist license to stay in as well.

Opponents concern: *The way the definitions are in this bill make hair design the same as cosmetology at 800 hours.*

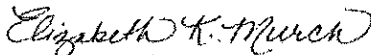
- **OSA Response:** The Ohio State Cosmetology and Barbering Board staff provided the language in the bill to clarify the practice of cosmetology which was included in the substitute bill.
 - Their intent was that cosmetology is defined as providing all the branches of cosmetology, and they believed the definition of cosmetology could not include cosmetology.
 - There has never been an intention of having a full cosmetology license 800-hour program as the opponents claim.
- **OSA compromise:** The OSA supports amending the final bill in the Senate to clarify and make clear that a full cosmetology license requires 1,000 hours, a hair design license requires 800 hours, an esthetics license requires 600 hours, a manicuring license requires 200 hours and a natural hair stylist license requires 450 hours.

The opponents should actually work with salon owners to address significant issues in the beauty industry, especially the fact that 28 private schools of cosmetology (or 30%) have abruptly closed their doors since May of 2015 and we expect more. These closures have required students to find alternate programs to finish their training very little to compensate them for these schools failing to help them become licensed and find employment in the beauty industry.

The Ohio Salon Association is focused on cosmetology student success, school success and addressing workforce issues for all salons and job providers in Ohio.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We have attached a list of business owners as well as state and national associations supporting HB 189 and SB 129.

Please feel free to contact our lobbyist, Tony Fiore, at afiore@keglerbrown.com or 614-462-5428 if you have any questions about this legislation.


Elizabeth Murch
Executive Director


Tony Fiore
Legislative Counsel

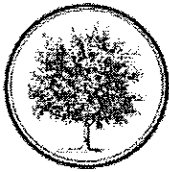
Supporters of Ohio HB 189 and SB 129

Arthur Gray Holdings, Inc.	Holiday Hair	QuickGroome, Inc. - Roosters
Beauty Supply Outlet	Hyland MH Retreats, LLC	Quiddity Partners, LLC
Best Cuts	Hyland Properties, LLC	R.L.O., Inc.
Bhooshay Enterprises of Ohio, LLC	Institute for Justice	Rachelle King
Blue Co. Brands	Intercoiffure America/Canada	RamseyRooney & Co.
Borics Hair Care	International Salon/Spa	Regis Salon
Burben Investments, Inc.	Business Network	S&L Cuts, Inc.
Carlton Hair	j.calico, LLC	SARJNT, Inc.
Charles Penzone, Inc.	JaNaMo Enterprises, Inc.	Sassoon Salon
Cincy Clips, Inc.	Jay-Mar Enterprises, LLC	Saturday's Hair Salon
City Looks Salons	JC Penney Salons	Sawyer Business Group, Inc.
Cool Cuts	JM Elliott Enterprise, LLC	Scott Burandt
Cost Cutters	Kerry and Anthony Sawyer	SDM Partners, Inc.
Courtnie Wesselman	Lake House Holdings, LLC	Shaun Norton dba SportClips
CSJ-Ventures, Inc.	Laventure, Inc.	Signature Style Salons
DANDREA, LLC	LGC Properties Management	SmartStyle Hair Salons
Daniel Feiwell – No LLC	LST Clips, Inc.	SportClips
Demer-Retail Ventures, LLC	M&M Wardeiner, Inc.	SRL Clips, LLC
Eckert, Inc. dba Great Clips	Majicuts	Studio Wish Salon
Empire Beauty Schools	MasterCuts	Style America
Esquire Holdings, LLC	Maxco, Inc.	Supercuts
Famous Hair	Maxxco, LLC	Tasha Sheipline
Fiesta Salons	Michael's Salon and Spa	TGF Hair Salon
FirstChoice HairCutters	MMAO, LLC	The 220 Group, Ltd.
Future of the Beauty Industry Coalition	NeCole Cumberlander	Professional Beauty Association
Gem City Clips	NFIB/Ohio	The Visage Group
Gold Coast Ventures, LLC	North Coast Partners, LLC	Tillery Enterprises, Inc.
Great Clips	Norton Clips, LLC	Tillery Salons, Inc.
Great Expectations	Oakpoint Partners, Inc.	TJTKR Enterprises, Inc.
Hair Crafters	Ohio Chamber of Commerce	Trinity Leadership 6, LLC
Hair Masters	Ohio Salon Association	Trinity Leadership 7, LLC
Hair Plus	Outlooks for Hair	Ulta
Head Start Haircare	Panopoulos Salons	Vanity Ventures, Inc.
	Park 50 Clips, LLC	We Care Hair
	Pro Cuts	

From: The Buckeye Institute
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March 19, 2018

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The Buckeye Institute: Policymakers Should Take Bolder Strides on Health Care Reforms that Country Can Follow

Buckeye Submits Public Comments on Ohio's Medicaid Waiver Proposals

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Rea S. Hederman Jr., executive director of the **Economic Research Center** and vice president of policy, submitted public comments on Ohio's two Medicaid waiver proposals -- the **work and community engagement waiver** and the **state innovation or 1332 waiver**.

"After years of failure in Washington, these waivers represent the first step in Ohio repairing its broken health insurance markets," said Rea S. Hederman Jr., executive director of the Economic Research Center at The Buckeye Institute and vice president of policy.

"While we applaud these proposals, we encourage policymakers to take bigger, bolder

strides to blaze a trail of innovative health insurance reforms that the rest of the country can follow."

Work and Community Engagement Wavier

Pointing out that Medicaid was drastically changed under the Affordable Care Act, Hederman said in his public comments, "Encouraging healthy, able-bodied adults to remain in the workforce or engage in other educational and training activities, Ohio's proposed Section 1115 waiver will enhance lifetime earnings, income, and health. By enhancing the health of the covered Medicaid enrollees, Ohio's proposed waiver meets the twin goals of the waiver demonstration project by promoting economic stability and improving health."

While noting that "Ohio's waiver proposal pursues sound public policy," Hederman outlined recommended improvements to the proposal in several key areas: data collection, self-reporting, age requirements, auditing beneficiary reporting, and emphasizing the disincentives to work created by expanded-Medicaid.

State Innovation or 1332 Waiver

Although the recent federal tax reform legislation reduced the tax penalty for violating the individual mandate to \$0, Hederman said that "the mandate itself remains in federal law and the penalty could be raised again someday."

Hederman went on to urge policymakers to use the Section 1332 process to explore new alternatives to the status quo. "Policymakers could, for instance, request a waiver from the Affordable Care Act's employer mandate. Combining such a waiver with a reinsurance waiver like Alaska's could help the individual market while alleviating a significant burden for small businesses. Ohio should use the waiver process boldly and creatively to lower individual insurance premiums and stabilize the state's insurance market."

As repeal of the Affordable Care Act floundered at the federal level, Hederman, an expert in health care policy, was the first to propose using section 1332 waivers as a way to allow states to waive parts of the law and take back the ability to regulate their insurance markets. Hederman, and co-author Dennis G. Smith, outlined this approach in the report *Returning Health Care Power to the States*.

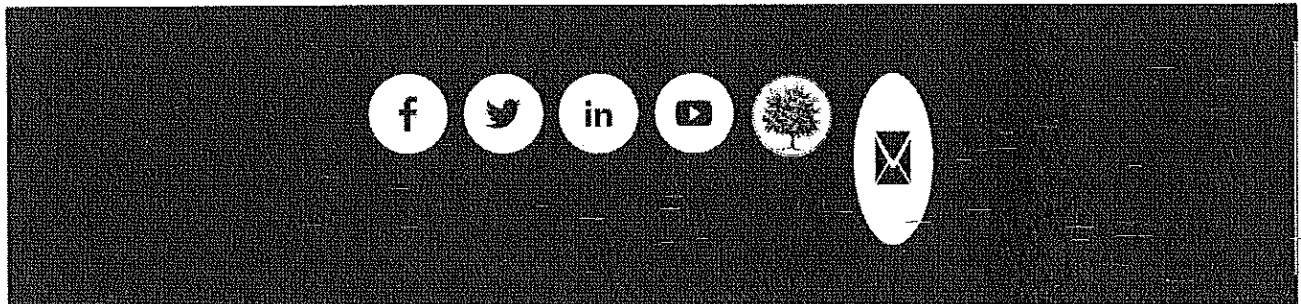
More recently, in *Federal Efforts to Stabilize ACA Individual Markets through State Innovation*, a study for the **Mercatus Center** at George Mason University, Hederman and Doug Badger with the Galen Institute argue that Congress and the administration should empower states to devise new ways to make health insurance more affordable for more people.

The Buckeye Institute's public comments were filed on Friday, March 16, 2018.

###

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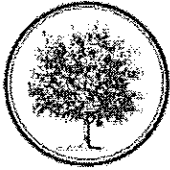
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The Buckeye Institute: Occupational Licensing is a Red-Taped Obstacle for Workers

*Greg Lawson Testifies Before the Ohio Senate Government
Oversight and Reform Committee on Senate Bill 255*

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified today (see full text below or **download a PDF**) before the Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee on Senate Bill 255.

In opening his testimony, Lawson said of Ohio's occupational licensing requirements, "No one denies that state licensing requirements are needed in some cases and industries to ensure public safety...But these concerns fade quickly when applied to auctioneers, travel guides, and hairdressers -- all of whom are subject to Ohio's byzantine licensing requirements."

Lawson also pointed to the state's burdensome occupational licensing as a factor slowing Ohio's economic recovery and impacting Ohio's minority communities, "State permission slip policies that make it harder and more expensive to find work only exacerbate the problem." Going on later to note that while the state's labor force participation has improved in recent years it remains below the national average and "Occupational licensing hurdles only make Ohio's full recovery more difficult."

The research in support of reducing occupational licensing spans the political spectrum with Lawson highlighting research by the **Heritage Foundation**, **National Bureau of Economic Research**, the **Brookings Institute's Hamilton Project**, and **Democratic and Republican** administrations. He also highlighted Buckeye's own research, *Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back* and *Still Forbidden to Succeed: The Negative Effects of Occupational Licensing on Ohio's Workforce*.

In closing, Lawson urged policymakers to reform Ohio's occupational licensing regulations saying, "Senate Bill 255 begins the overdue effort of reforming the state's occupational licensing regime and ending a misguided permission slip policy that has stood in the way of growth and prosperity for far too long."

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**Interested Party Testimony on Senate Bill 255
Before the Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
March 21, 2018**

Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Schiavoni, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding Senate Bill 255 and Ohio's need for occupational licensing reform.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, an independent research and educational institution -- a think tank -- whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

Ohioans should not have to ask the state for permission to earn a living. Yet, all too often, Ohio creates permission slip policies that make it harder -- and sometimes impossible -- for Ohioans or would-be Ohioans to pursue their careers and put food on the table for their families. Such policies must end.

No one denies that state licensing requirements are needed in some cases and industries to ensure public safety. Requiring appropriate education and training for physicians, healthcare providers, pilots, and truck drivers, for example, helps safeguard the general public in our hospitals and on our roads and runways. But these concerns fade quickly when applied to auctioneers, travel guides, and hairdressers -- all of whom are subject to Ohio's byzantine licensing requirements.

Consider Jennifer McClellan. A new mother, a long-time professional, and a licensed massage therapist, Jennifer tried moving back to Ohio to be closer to her family, but the Ohio State Medical Board denied her license application because she was 10 days shy of the state's training requirements.[1] The board unduly discounted Jennifer's years of training and work experience, and would not honor the license she had already earned in Minnesota. Jennifer is not alone.

Tragically, such cases plague Ohio's minority communities -- communities already facing daunting employment prospects. Nationally, the unemployment rate among African Americans remains much higher than among other demographics. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the most recent unemployment rate among African Americans was 6.9 percent -- nearly double the 3.7 percent rate for whites.[2] Unemployment confronts 27.2 percent of young African Americans between 16 and 19, compared to the 12.6 percent of young whites.[3] State permission slip policies that make it harder and more expensive to find work only exacerbate the problem, adding insult to injury in our job-deprived minority communities.

Recent scholarship across the political spectrum has highlighted the challenges presented by occupational licensing schemes and has made clear that the burdens created by such bureaucratic requirements must be lifted.

For starters, according to the Heritage Foundation, occupational licensing requirements cost the average U.S. household a staggering \$1,033 per year.[4] Even more troubling, however, are the adverse effects that licensing has on interstate mobility and the labor market itself. A new study by professors Janna Johnson and Morris Kleiner of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, for example, found that the migration rate of workers in occupations with state-specific licensing exam requirements was 36 percent lower than

rates for other occupations.[5] By contrast, occupations with national examinations showed no evidence of such a limitation on interstate mobility.[6] Put simply, state-specific licensure makes migration more difficult by closing occupational doors for people who want to move.

In testimony before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, Professor Kleiner has stated that he and Alan Krueger, the former head of President Obama's Council of Economic Advisors, had calculated that licensing laws cost between a half and one percent of jobs nationally in 2010.[7] Those seemingly small percentages amount to tens of thousands of jobs across America that never came into existence -- a claim bolstered by research out of the Brookings Institute's Hamilton Project revealing that stringent licensing requirements result in fewer providers of the services subject to the requirements.[8] Fewer providers means fewer employers and fewer available jobs.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, given Mr. Krueger and Professor Kleiner's findings, the Obama Administration released a detailed report in 2015 calling for nationwide reforms to occupational licensing.[9] Echoing bipartisan support for such measures, the Trump Administration's Secretary of Labor has since said, "Americans want principled, broad-based reform. If licenses are unnecessary, eliminate them. If they are needed, streamline them. And, if they are honored by one state, consider honoring them in your own state. Americans looking to enter the workforce deserve no less than our most ardent efforts to remove regulatory barriers so that they can have a job." [10]

Focusing less on national trends and more on Ohio's own licensing concerns, The Buckeye Institute's report, *Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back*, showed not only that Ohio's licensing burdens are well above the national average, but also that nearly every Ohio license that requires training can be earned in less time in another state.[11]

Our subsequent study, *Still Forbidden to Succeed: The Negative Effects of Occupational Licensing on Ohio's Workforce*, confirmed the disturbing and stubborn fact that Ohio's licensing requirements erect higher barriers to employment for those most in need of quality jobs: middle-aged and low-income workers, and those without a college degree.[12]

Senate Bill 255 takes several steps toward fixing Ohio's occupational licensure problem. First, for the first time in state history, policymakers would be required to use the least restrictive regulation when displacing competition, and the bill identifies various licensing alternatives -- listed from least restrictive to most restrictive -- that the state could pursue if confronting a verifiable public safety risk. Second, Senate Bill 255 establishes a process for

legislative panels to use when weeding through Ohio's overgrown thicket of licensing boards. Under this process, boards that the General Assembly does not proactively reauthorize would simply dissolve. Taken together, these provisions give lawmakers a much-needed tool for uprooting bureaucratic thistles that deprive Ohioans of the potential fruits of their labor.

In addition to its sunset provisions, Senate Bill 255 also creates a sunrise review process to be used whenever a new licensing bill is introduced. This provision will require the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) to assess the potential consequences of any new licensing legislation with respect to employment opportunities, consumer choices and costs, market competition, and costs to the government. Additionally, under S.B. 255, the LSC must assess 20 percent of the occupations regulated by the state each calendar year beginning in 2018, assess all occupations at least once before 2022, and continue such assessments on a five-year rolling basis after 2022.

These are all positive strides for a state still struggling to create new jobs. Ohio still has not rebounded fully from the tech bubble burst and remains down by almost 93,000 private-sector jobs from its peak in March 2000 -- now 18 years ago.[13] The state's labor force participation has improved in recent years, but remains slightly below the national average. Occupational licensing hurdles only make Ohio's full recovery more difficult.

Every licensing requirement raises a new red-taped obstacle for workers to clear before earning a living or starting a new career. Every hour of unpaid training needed to satisfy bureaucratic requirements is an hour not spent earning tips, impressing a boss, serving a customer, or opening a business. Those are hours of lost productivity, hours of opportunity that young, low-income workers sorely need, but that the state continues to take for itself.

Senate Bill 255 begins the overdue effort of reforming the state's occupational licensing regime and ending a misguided permission slip policy that has stood in the way of growth and prosperity for far too long.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions that the Committee might have.

[1] Greg R. Lawson, **Goodbye, Ohio. A Talented Massage Therapist Forced to Leave State Because of Crazy Licensing Rules**, The Buckeye Institute, February 29, 2016.

[2] Bureau of Labor Statistics, **Table A-2. Employment Status of Civilian Population by Race, Sex, and Age**, U.S. Department of Labor (Last visited March 16, 2018)

[3] *Ibid.*

[4] Salim Furth, *Costly Mistakes: How Bad Policies Raise the Cost of Living*, The Heritage Foundation, November 23, 2015.

[5] Janna E. Johnson and Morris M. Kleiner, *Is Occupational Licensing a Barrier to Interstate Migration?*, National Bureau of Economic Research, December 2017.

[6] *Ibid.*

[7] Morris M. Kleiner, *License to Compete: Occupational Licensing and the State Action Doctrine*, Testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy, and Consumer Rights, February 2, 2016.

[8] Morris M. Kleiner, *Reforming Occupational Licensing Policies*, The Hamilton Project, March 2015.

[9] The White House, *Occupational Licensing: A Framework for Policymakers*, July 2015.

[10] Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta, *Speech before the 44th Annual Meeting of the American Legislative Exchange Council*, U.S. Department of Labor, July 21, 2017.

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[11] Tom Lampman, *Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back*, The Buckeye Institute, November 18, 2015.

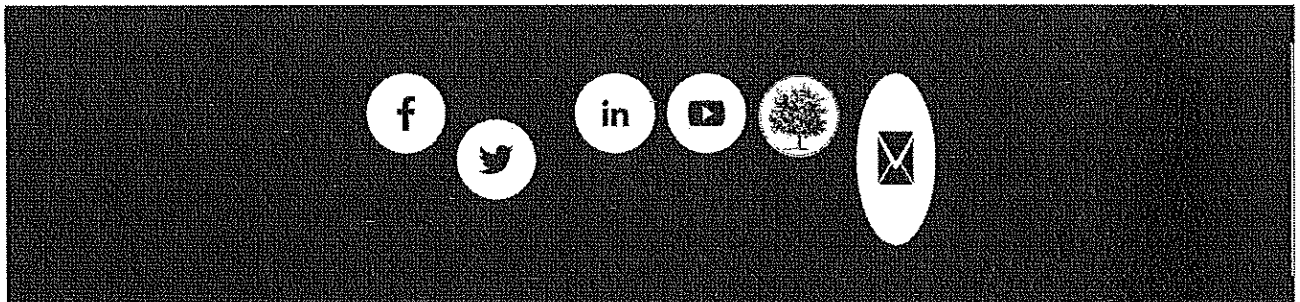
[12] Orphe Pierre Divounguys, PhD, Bryce Hill, and Greg R. Lawson, *Still Forbidden to Succeed: The Negative Effects of Occupational Licensing on Ohio's Workforce*, The Buckeye Institute, December 18, 2017.

[13] Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Ohio Economy at a Glance*, U.S. Department of Labor (Last visited March 16, 2018).

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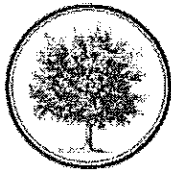
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March 21, 2018

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is a Red-Taped Obstacle for Workers**

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The research in support of reducing occupational licensing spans the political spectrum with Lawson highlighting research by the **Heritage Foundation**, **National Bureau of Economic Research**, the **Brookings Institute's Hamilton Project**, and **Democratic and Republican** administrations. He also highlighted Buckeye's own research, *Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back* and *Still Forbidden to Succeed: The Negative Effects of Occupational Licensing on Ohio's Workforce*.

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**Interested Party Testimony on Senate Bill 255
Before the Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
March 21, 2018**

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Ohioans should not have to ask the state for permission to earn a living. Yet, all too often, Ohio creates permission slip policies that make it harder -- and sometimes impossible -- for Ohioans or would-be Ohioans to pursue their careers and put food on the table for their families. Such policies must end.

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Recent scholarship across the political spectrum has highlighted the challenges presented by occupational licensing schemes and has made clear that the burdens created by such bureaucratic requirements must be lifted.

For starters, according to the Heritage Foundation, occupational licensing requirements cost the average U.S. household a staggering \$1,033 per year.[4] Even more troubling, however, are the adverse effects that licensing has on interstate mobility and the labor market itself. A new study by professors Janna Johnson and Morris Kleiner of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, for example, found that the migration rate of workers in occupations with state-specific licensing exam requirements was 36 percent lower than

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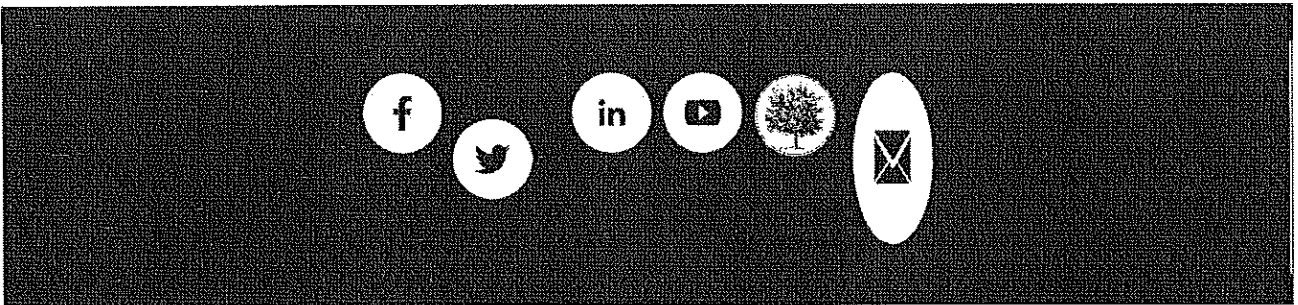
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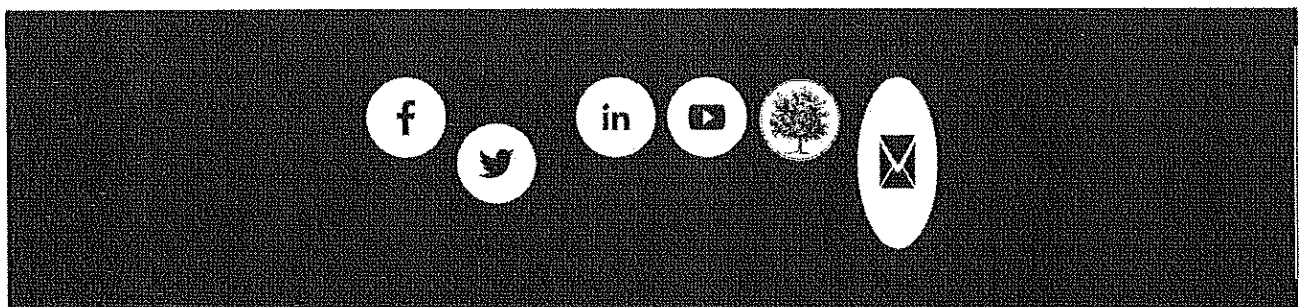
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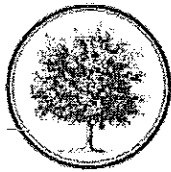
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Senate Bill 255 begins the overdue effort of reforming the state's occupational licensing regime and ending a misguided permission slip policy that has stood in the way of growth and prosperity for far too long.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions that the Committee might have.

[1] Greg R. Lawson, **Goodbye, Ohio. A Talented Massage Therapist Forced to Leave State Because of Crazy Licensing Rules**, The Buckeye Institute, February 29, 2016.

[2] Bureau of Labor Statistics, **Table A-2. Employment Status of Civilian Population by Race, Sex, and Age**, U.S. Department of Labor (Last visited March 16, 2018)

[3] *Ibid.*

[4] Salim Furth, *Costly Mistakes: How Bad Policies Raise the Cost of Living*, The Heritage Foundation, November 23, 2015.

[5] Janna E. Johnson and Morris M. Kleiner, *Is Occupational Licensing a Barrier to Interstate Migration?*, National Bureau of Economic Research, December 2017.

[6] *Ibid.*

[7] Morris M. Kleiner, *License to Compete: Occupational Licensing and the State Action Doctrine*, Testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy, and Consumer Rights, February 2, 2016.

[8] Morris M. Kleiner, *Reforming Occupational Licensing Policies*, The Hamilton Project, March 2015.

[9] The White House, *Occupational Licensing: A Framework for Policymakers*, July 2015.

[10] Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta, *Speech before the 44th Annual Meeting of the American Legislative Exchange Council*, U.S. Department of Labor, July 21, 2017.

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[11] Tom Lampman, *Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back*, The Buckeye Institute, November 18, 2015.

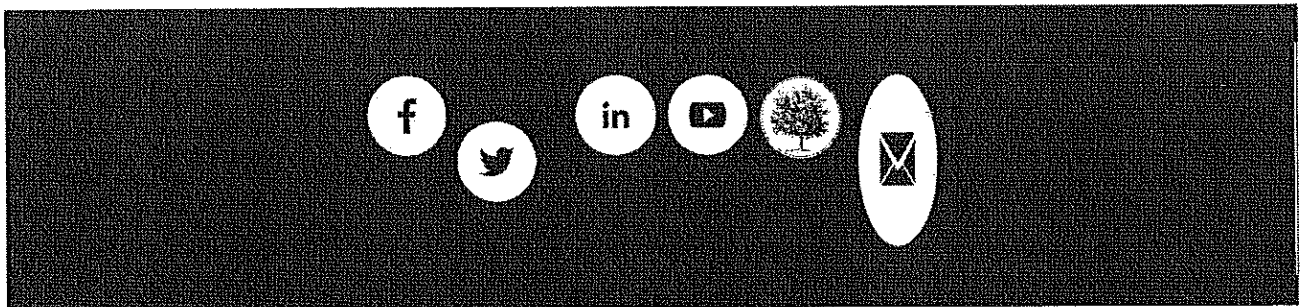
[12] Orphe Pierre Divounguis, PhD, Bryce Hill, and Greg R. Lawson, *Still Forbidden to Succeed: The Negative Effects of Occupational Licensing on Ohio's Workforce*, The Buckeye Institute, December 18, 2017.

[13] Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Ohio Economy at a Glance*, U.S. Department of Labor (Last visited March 16, 2018).

#

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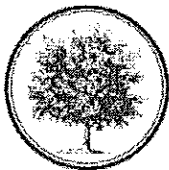
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Apologies, you will have received a press release for testimony Greg R. Lawson will be giving tomorrow on Senate Bill 255. You should have received the below release on Lawson's testimony on Senate Bill 135. I am sorry for the mistake and the inconvenience.

Lisa Gates



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

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Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 20, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute: Capital Budget Should be

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Reduced to Off-Set Costs of Voting Machines

Greg Lawson Testifies Before Ohio Senate Finance Committee on Senate Bill 135

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified today (see full text below or **download a PDF**) before the Ohio Senate Finance Committee on Senate Bill 135.

Lawson opened his testimony telling the committee that The Buckeye Institute supported funding to replace Ohio's aging voting machines, calling it "a wise use of state dollars that serves a core government function." He went on to say, "As we explained in our recent report, *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*, funding Ohio's democratic infrastructure ultimately helps to maintain the integrity of our state."

While Buckeye supports state funding to replace Ohio's aging voting machines, Lawson noted "the capital budget -- and not a separate funding bill -- is the more appropriate legislative vehicle for funding state infrastructure and core government responsibilities." With the decision by policymakers to use a separate funding mechanism, Lawson urged policymakers to off-set the capital budget by the corresponding amount "in order to maintain longer-term spending balance."

###

**Interested Party Testimony on Senate Bill 135
Before the Ohio Senate Finance Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
March 20, 2018**

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Skindell, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today about an issue critical to all Ohioans -- strengthening our democratic infrastructure.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, an independent research and educational institution -- a think tank -- whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

Senate Bill 135 includes funding to replace Ohio's aging voting machines -- a wise use of state dollars that serves a core government function. Democratic elections represent the key mechanism by which citizens choose their leaders and hold them accountable. Thus, they undergird the very foundation of our democracy. To maintain the integrity of the election process is to maintain the integrity of our democratic infrastructure. And as we explained in our recent report, *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*,